MASSACHUSETTS PLOUGHMAN.

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AGRICULTURE.

GREAT STORIES ABOUT CORN.

Great stories are the idol of newspapers and newsmongers. Tell a great story about crops—tell one that no practical farmer will believe, and it will be copied into all the papers far and near. Many readers cannot well judge of the correctness of statements made by men in the farming line, and they are the people to puff and applaud what is thought to be a grand improvement in the farming art.

They are the men that think the long experience of ages is to be wholly set aside. They are the men who sneer at what "their fathers did" when they have not any substitute that is half so good. They are the men who chuckle and crow to think they now know better than to put a stone into one end of the meal bag to balance the grain in the other end—"as their fathers did" when they went on horseback to mill.

We have made some efforts to ascertain whether the stories we hear of large crops, grown at a distance, are well founded. Many years ago it was often said that a hundred bushels of corn per acre was no uncommon crop in the fertile lands of Ohio. But on strict inquiry it is found that 100 bushels of corn meant a 100 bushels of ears of corn—that is, about 50 bushels of shelled corn.

And within a year or two we have seen it stated in New York papers that 172 bushels of corn had been grown on one acre in that State. We have inquired repeatedly to learn how the land and the corn were measured—not how it was *cultivated*, or how *manured*, for we know something of these matters at home. The mode of measuring is what we desire to know, for it is this, we think, which causes the great discrepancy that we notice in the reports of the Corn Crops.

Last year we ventured to inquire in the Ploughman the mode of measuring land and corn in the county of Plymouth when a premium is the object. We noticed that a premium there had been granted to one who was reported to have grown no less than 130 bushels of corn on one acre. The Supervisor of that Society, the Rev. Morrill Allen, whom no man in the county can suspect of a design to misrepresent, seemed to be satisfied that the survey was correct. In his able Report he stated that one square rod was selected in the middle of the field—an average of the whole acre lot—and this was reported to him by the surveyors of the field, who shelled and measured, or who weighed the corn with the cob, making the usual allowance.

On seeing this Report we then insisted on knowing how the *Surveyors* proceeded to measure the average rod, but no explanation has ever been offered. And now again we have another Report from our friend and much respected Supervisor (see Ploughman of last week.) In this Report we are told that a farmer in East Bridgewater is awarded a premium of eight dollars for the largest crop of corn. "Who raised, (says the report,) according to the measurement, *a fraction over one hundred and forty-one bushels on an acre*." This Report was published in the Plymouth County Memorial, from which we copied it. The mode of measuring is not told this year, and as we have no reason to think it has been much improved since our last year's inquiry, we shall suppose that a single rod was taken as a basis of the whole.

Those who read the Supervisor's Report in our last week's paper will notice that he alludes to our inquiry of last year, and says the mode we propose as a test of the correctness of the survey "is impracticable, because where the largest crops are found it is seldom planted in hills, usually in drills, &c."

Now if it can be shown to the satisfaction of farmers that double crops can be obtained by double seeding, this answer may be weighty. Farmers will all sow, or plant in drills, if by so doing they can gather 141 bushels an acre, or even two thirds of 141. We know many very good farmers who tell us they would readily go many miles to see one hundred bushels of corn on one acre, and we know they have all the means of raising large crops.

The Bristol County Society have been in the practice of offering a premium to any one who would raise 75 bushels on an acre. Other Societies have done the same. The Middlesex Society for a number of years offered a premium for 80 bushels on an acre. All these instances go to prove what farmers commonly consider large and unusual crops—for they give no premiums for usual crops.

If the farmers of Plymouth county (and we have no better farmers in our eye) can actually grow one third more corn on an acre than farmers can in other counties, the fact ought to be generally known. No one would more rejoice than we in being able to assure our readers that by proper efforts they could grow 141 or 100 either on a single acre. Corn is our favorite crop. We set it before all others when 50 bushels are found on a single acre. But if we could be sure of nearly three times that quantity we could be sure that pork would fall as low as three cents a pound.

We want the facts of the case, the real truth,—the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. And in inquiring for facts we make not the least suggestion of fraud in the measurement. We suspect that the measurers of the land in this case did not consider so fully as they should that when they measure one rod of corn in an acre they should be careful to have the *ground* correspond with the corn. One rod of corn *may* stand on one and a half rods of ground *when the space between that rod and the next rod is not reckoned*. We know that people have measured in this way and seemed to think it correct, though they must know that when 160 rods are measured together there would arise as much difficulty and crowding as when the towns of the Commonwealth were attempted to be crowded into one general map.

Many people might at first suppose that if one whole acre of corn is to be surveyed it would be right to measure from the outside hills on one side to the outside hills on the other side—leaving no space outside. But this would never do for 100 acres in a body. So if the single rod is measured from hills to hills on each side, the second rod would not have so many hills as the first—the selected rod.

To make this still more obvious, if that is necessary, let the surveyor take a single row 100 yards in length, and let the rows be one yard apart. Now if he takes a yard in width he surveys correctly—but if he takes but a third of a yard in width—if he takes only the ground that the corn stands on—say one foot in width—he surveys but one third of the ground that bore the harvest. He might as well survey but a single square foot of ground for a hill, though a hill in truth occupies three times as much space.

We learn that a farmer in West Newbury is to have the highest premium on corn in Essex county, though he has raised but a hundred bushels—only 100 bushels on an acre. Some of the corn has been shown to us, and we never cast eyes on more beautiful corn in any part of the country. If 141 bushels can be grown on an acre in Plymouth county, we see no reason to doubt that as much may be grown on some of the good farms in Essex county.

Let us come at the truth if possible. Let us not differ so much in our surveys. Let us not be obliged to report what farmers cannot understand and will not credit. It is suggested by the Supervisor that a better mode than is there adopted cannot be devised unless the whole acre and the whole corn are to be measured—and then he suggests "there would be ample ground to conjecture that the owner might have added something from another field."

Such an apprehension would have no weight with farmers here,—and if the Supervisor has cause to suspect any thing of the kind in his vicinity, he should at least be willing to ask his surveyors what mode they adopted to measure the square rod of corn. Did they leave any vacancies between hills?

It may be that in some seasons more corn may be grown on a given lot where the stalks are thick than where they are farther apart. It may be that corn in drills will yield more than corn in hills. But, in general, we think it will not. When people plant in drills they let too many stalks remain—no ears are found on some of them. On our own farm we succeed best when we have the fewest number of stalks.

At any rate there can be no great difference, generally, in the two modes. Many farmers here have tried both ways, through the Supervisor seems to think there is hardly a farmer in the State who has tried to see how large a crop of corn he can raise on an acre. He thinks they would be astonished at the result.

On our own farm we have always had the best crops when we left no more than three or four stalks in a hill. We have often made trial of drills, but have gained nothing by the change. We find that four thousand hills are quite enough for one acre. And by ascertaining how much corn a hill or ten hills, or a hundred hills will produce we can tell very nearly what may be had on an acre. Better than measuring a rod.

Mr. Whitman of East Bridgewater who has got the premium for 141 bushels per acre must have had much more than a quart of shelled corn to a hill throughout, at the common distance. If his hills were nigher together he would have gained but little—he might lose by it.

Now we offer a premium to Mr. Whitman of ten dollars, if he will show us a hundred hills together in one row that produce 100 quarts of merchantable corn—and he may pick the very best row in his field. The hills shall stand at the usual distance, one pace, one fifth of a rod,—or he may have double the number of hills in a like space, if he thinks he can gain any thing by that,—but he shall have no more space than 100 hills have, and the adjoining rows shall have hills to correspond in number with his premium row.

Is not this a fair offer for next season? One quart on each hill will amount to just 125 bushels an acre—sixteen bushels less than the crop that he has had a premium upon—and the premium we offer is greater than the Society offered. We offer this not for an average rod or row, but for his *best row* in the field. Let us have 100 quarts from 100 hills in a consecutive row, and we shall hope we may yet have an acre of 4000 hills with 4000 quarts—or one hundred and twenty-five bushels.

This quantity we have never been lucky enough to see on an acre. But if scientific farming will do it, we shall feel under greater obligation to science in farming than we have ever felt.

TENDER FEET.

We have received a communication from "H. P." of Boston, on the causes of tender feet in horses. He does not think the complaint is inherited. He is quite confident it is caused by standing on manure that ferments and causes too much heat in the feet.

He would prefer to have a horse stand on granite, brick, plank, or hard clay, which would prepare the feet for the hard paving stones.

We should think clay better than plank or stones. But we have kept a horse for years on the litter and manure in his stable with no floor underneath. Even horse manure ferments but little when the horse stands on it and keeps it close. When the air is excluded entirely no fermenation takes place.

Our farrier used to remark that our "old Bay" had the best feet of any horse in the village. The hoofs were always moist and tough.

We have some scruples about making horses stand on granite or other hard platforms. Planks are too dry for a horse's feet. Manure may not be the best substance, but we prefer manure with a good quantity of litter, to a stone or brick pavement.

EDUCATION OF FARMERS.

Hopkinton, Dec. 19.

Mr. Editor: I have had the privilege, and pleasure of perusing the volumes of your publication for some three or four years, and it has been to me a source of instruction, and gratification. And I am happy to say, that the more carefully I study its pages the more it increases my interest and enhances my opinion of its proprietors and correspondents. As they have by means of the pen evinced a strong desire to have the important subject of agriculture occupy that place in the public mind, which the national, state, social, and individual interest demand.

Although my attention has not been wholly directed to the subject, and but a small portion of my time devoted to the pursuit of tilling the soil, I have nevertheless been studious in investigating the important facts that have been published relative to experimental and practical farming,—as I have had transient anticipations of a farmer's life.

But to call your attention to *the* subject! "allow me" "friend of the Ploughman, here to remark"! that one great reason why agriculture has not created that interest in, and received that attention from the community that it deserves—is (in my humble opinion) attributable to the neglect of farmers, in educating their progeny.—For it is indeed a deplorable fact that the majority of farmers have formerly, if they do not at the present day, deemed it sufficient in educating their children, to permit them to attend the common school as long as custom dictates—and then to lay aside their books, to slumber for weeks months and years perhaps, without being molested, without ever permitting them to avail themselves of the privileges of our higher literary institutions—without learning them the importance and advantage of cultivating and developing their mental faculties, to a desirable extent—without endeavoring to show them explicitly the beauty of, and pleasure arising from high social and intellectual refinement.

And I ask in the name of reason and sound judgment, if such a state of things ought not to be deprecated! should it be so! If institutions of learning are growing up in our midst: who shall be tempted by them? "none but a few of our would be aristocrats"? or shall our New England farmers educate their sons and daughters, "in order that they," when they shall be called to occupy the stations, that their parents, who shall then perhaps have left this sublunary ball, to slumber beneath the sod, now occupy, may not be inferior in intellectual attainments to any other class in the community, unless it be the literati. I do not wish to assert by any means that book knowledge should be taught with such a degree of anxiety, as to cause a neglect of the physical duties, or to injure the physical constitution. But that the young man who designs entering upon the business of farming, may be so educated that his knowledge shall not be wholly confined to the narrow limits of the land he cultivates, and be dependent upon some individual more learned than himself for every new idea and opinion, but that he may be competent to act and judge for himself, as far as expediency demands, in the performance of all his public, and private duties.

It has been said that 'knowledge is power;' if so let farmers possess it: that they may exert an influence as a class and as individuals far and wide.

J. CLAFLIN.

☞ We have long entertained the opinion that farmers mistake when they neglect to educate their children. We want a host of "gentlemen farmers" that can work and study too We ought to cultivate the mind while we exercise the bodily powers. No one can study constantly, and no one ought to work continually. "Labor and rest alternate," was what was enjoyed in paradise. All have a chance to improve the intellectual faculties if they would.

Farmers, who would have their sons stay on the farm, should endeavor to make home as pleasant as possible. In order to do this they should furnish reading for them. Show them they may be gentlemen without going into trade, or into the professions. [Editor.

[For the Ploughman.]

ON REARING TREES.

Mr. Editor—Dear Sir,—Will you give some information through the columns of your valuable paper, in reference to sowing and rearing a nursery of apple-trees? I, this fall, made my calculations to sow a nursery, in this manner:—I have an acre of first rate land in good [illegible] seed in rows far enough apart for my rows of trees, intending to let those remain which I wanted for my orchard, thinking that they would do better than to transplant them, but a friend of mine suggested the idea that if suffered to remain, as they grew on deep loamy soil, they would grow with a top root, but if transplanted, the evil would be remedied. Now, Sir, as I am unacquainted with the rearing of trees, and as I am anxious to do something in reference to an orchard before the ground "shuts up," you would confer a favor by giving a few hints relative to the point.

Yours truly,
ORA OAKMAN.

Corinth, Me.

☞ The old mode of setting an orchard was to pick up trees somewhere—any where—set them out in the land where the orchard is to be, and nurse them up for twenty years till they come to a bearing state. But as the land could not be spared so long for an orchard exclusively, grass seed was sown over the ground and the land was mowed yearly.

In such case the trees were not much in the way, for they were not ambitious of covering much of the ground. The roots could not extend on account of the grass, and the tops were too prudent to go much farther than the roots. But the fall feed in the orchard was wanted too, and the cattle could trim the trees at noon time after they had filled themselves nearly with the grass. Orchards have often been nursed by cattle till the trees were so much improved as to be very little in the way of the scythe or the plough.

The modern mode of planting orchards is to take the trees from a good nursery where the nurseryman has been rearing them up for six or seven years and fitting them to go ahead and bear fruit in the present age. During these six or seven years, while the trees are in the nursery, the lot on which they are to stand, may be devoted to pasturing, mowing, or planting—with no trees in the way. But now the cattle must be kept out and the ground must be kept broken if you would have the trees grow.

It is rather discouraging to plant seeds in an extensive orchard and protect them there, waiting six years for them to get as large as trees when they are taken from the nursery. But now the nurseryman realizes his profits in six or seven years from the seeding; and the orchardist realizes his profits in as short a time. It is not economical to take up a whole acre for seedling trees that may be nursed up fit to be set on a small plot of ground. It does no injury to apple trees to transplant them unless it may be that they become short lived. This is not proved. [Editor.

[For the Ploughman.]

CURING CORN STALKS.

Mr. Editor,—In your paper bearing date Dec. 15th, I find an article from a correspondent of yours upon the importance of ascertaining and practising the best methods of curing and preserving all kinds of food for stock. And upon this point I perfectly agree with him; but that *he* has *found* the *best* method I cannot yet believe. As regards the curing of the grasses, I presume that I should differ from most of your correspondents, as my method would be to dry in the sun in the usual way of spreading and turning, until it had become so dry that it would not heat in the heaps, and when it is warm in the middle of the day, put it in cocks and there let it stand for two or three days of good weather, and then cart it direct to the barn. I believe that by being suffered to remain exposed to the sun and, wind until it is perfectly dry, much of the strength passes off and is lost. But the point upon which I wish to speak is in relation to the curing of Corn Stalks. The experiment of *his* is not in accordance with my own observation and experience; and you will permit me to give you a little of my observation upon this subject, as I am at this time feeding out from fifty to one hundred bundles of stalks per day. Our stalks were cut at the usual time, and after being suffered to remain on the hills for one day or more, were bound and piked up in stalks for further drying, and after standing for some time, a part of them were carried to the barn and set up under the roof of the barn and there have remained until now, and they look as green and as fresh as my friends from Hamilton, but the cattle will eat but little of them except the leaves.—The balance of the stalks, for want of help, we were obliged to leave in the field for weeks until they had become very black, and looked to be almost worthless, but, notwithstanding this, the cattle will eat them greedily, and do not leave the value of one stalk in fifty bundles. And now where is the proof that they do not do them as much good as though they looked green and fresh? Permit me to make one more statement and I am done: last year we having stalks within a few rods of the barn, which had been cut about one day, there came up a shower, and thinking it a pity that the stalks should be wet, we bound them and carried them by hand into the barn and put them astride some poles until they were dried enough, and then put them away for the milch cows at odd meals, supposing them to be something far *superior* to those left in the field, but it was with difficulty that they could be made to eat them at all. I would like to give you the testimony of one of our most observing and intelligent townsmen upon this point, but I am aware that I have already trespassed too much upon your patience and good sense; and will, therefore, close by expressing the hope that this subject will receive that attention which its importance demands, and that many of our practical Farmers will give us their experience in this matter through the columns of your paper. This I leave at your disposal.

L.

Westborough, Dec. 17.

☞ Our readers are referred to our comments on this subject in our paper of the 15th, inst.

[Editor.

[For the Ploughman.]

Mr. Editor—Dear Sir,—In looking over the statements of the Essex County Transactions, in your paper of Dec. 15th 1848, I find that Mr. Putnam made one pound of butter from ten quarts of milk, and that Mr. Stone made one pound from nine quarts. The 18th of October, 1848, I strained out ten quarts of milk, taken from the milk of four cows all milked together, and from that ten quarts I churned one pound and ten ounces of butter. Now, I am not able to say whether the milk at that season of the year will make more butter than it will in June from the same quantity or not. If it will that may make the difference.

Yours, &c.

Sterling, Dec. 18, 1849. E. K.

☞ Milk in October will always yield more butter per quart than milk in June. Ten beer quarts are usually required to make one pound of butter—this is the average quantity. But some milk is a third richer than other milk. We have had milk in July, eight quarts of which would produce a pound of butter. [Editor.

[For the Ploughman.]

Mr. Editor,—In the last Ploughman you say, trees must have air and light as well as other vegetation, and that pine trees which are not very nigh, make wood at least four times as fast as those that stand near each other. I have a lot of ten years growth from the stumps, principally oak, with white and other birch, pine, walnut, &c., intermixed or growing in particular places, on most of which is underbrush of shrub-oak, &c., so thick and sprangling, that one needs a pair of leather breeches, or the hide of a Rhinoceros, to go into it. Now, I wish to know whether it will *pay*,—can't afford a cent for mere looks, or the comfort of gunners,—to cut off this undergrowth? If so, in what season of the year should it be done, and about what will be the cost?

One question more. Mr. Colman, in the Agricultural Survey of Massachusetts makes out a pretty clear case that an acre of land which does not produce a cord of wood per year, or twenty cords in twenty years, does not come up to the book-farming work. The question is, what deduction from this calculation *practical* farmers are oliged to make?

Woburn, Dec. 1849. S. F.

☞ Our correspondent seems not to have understood us when speaking of the growth of wood-lots. We only meant to call the attention of farmers to the fact that vegetation must have air and light—consequently room. Some men seem to suppose there is no limit to the quantity of corn that may be grown on an acre if it is rich, and the hills are very numerous. This is a great mistake.

We did not advise farmers to go into their thick wood-lots and cut out the shrub oaks and other under brush. The white pines that are permitted to grow will kill all the shrubs that are near them.

Still it may pay to thin out a young wood lot and take one half for fuel or for hoop-poles. But what we intended to impress on the mind was, that the thickest growth is not always the most valuable. Many lots advance slowly for want of room. [Editor.

[For the Ploughman.]

TRIMMING PINE TREES.

Mr. Editor—Sir,—Through your valuable paper, which I have taken for some years, I should like some information concerning trimming pine trees. I have got a few acres of them on hard land, they are in size from three inches to six through, and very thick. I should like to know what time in the year, or whether to take any more than is dead or not trim at all.

WILBER ALLEN.

Spencer.

☞ The question has not yet been settled whether it is injurious to a pine tree to trim it. Generally a tree makes wood in proportion to the extent of its top, or its leaves. But when pines grow thick together, a large proportion of the limbs die. In such case there is no issue of gum from the tree—it does not bleed.

One farmer states to us that he has trimmed up his young white pines without injury to them,—though the common notion is that it is not proper to trim them on account of the gum. The farmer aforesaid, trims them in March. There are times when no gum will issue on trimming.

Where there are scattering white pines in a wood-lot they take up much room and kill all that is inclined to grow around them. It may pay the way to trim off some of their limbs at a time when they will not bleed, in order to make room for other trees. Let us have this question discussed.—Let those who have made the trial inform those who have not, and do it publicly and extensively. [Editor.

Love labor; if you do not want it for food you may for physic.

PLYMOUTH ROCK CHICKENS.
(From Dr. Bennett's stock.)
EXHIBITED AT THE LATE FAIR, BY G. P. BURNHAM, ROXBURY, MASS.

Mr. Editor,—Herewith, I send you a faithful representation of three of my *Plymouth Rock* chickens—drawn from life, by F. A. Durivage, and engraved by D. C. Hitchcock of this city. The above picture represents a trio of a brood hatched the middle of April last. The rooster weighs 9 1-4 lbs., the two pullets over 13 lbs., at the writing of this communication.

The stock came from Dr. Bennett, and I am daily more and more pleased with this fine species. I have the "Plymouth Rocks," at all ages, now—from a few days, up to about eight months old; and my specimens embrace five or six different broods. The *color* of *all* of them is peculiarly uniform, and I am satisfied that the variety (or breed) is now well established. The body plumage on the pullets is a rich deep brown, speckled with golden-tipt feathers, the under down is black, (or a deep blue-black) and the tail is brown, black and gold.

The legs of the pullets are very dark colored, and one half of them, or more, are five-toed; but some of them do not come so. The comb is single, and the wattles thin and small. The head and neck are well formed, the legs are shorter than the average of fowls, and the hens are not only deep and broad-chested, but the bodies are proportionally very long—as you will observe in the drawing.

The roosters are noble birds—among the finest I have ever met with. I have two well-grown crowers, very similar in their appearance, carriage, color, size and general points; the above is a true and life-like drawing of the male birds, which, for their age, will compare, favorably—so far as my experience goes—with *any* known breed of domestic fowl.

I am satisfied that the Plymouth Rock fowl, carefully bred, will become a most valuable one to the poulterer or the agriculturist; and I believe that a pair of the specimens shown in the accompanying engraving, will weigh, at laying time next Spring, full eighteen pounds—perhaps more. I deem this ample, for *size*—and with the other good qualities of these fowls, which I have already tested—for laying, quietness, easy keeping, and general hardiness—I think these must cause them to rank among the very best in our country, eventually.

The plumage of the roosters is dark red hackles, on neck and rump; the legs are bright yellow, slightly feathered; the body dark red and green, relieved with stray feathers of a golden tint; and the under portion of the body and breast is a rich, deep glossy blue-black—partaking of the plumage of the wild India fowl, the original cross. The tail-*plumes* on the above crower, are not grown out, as yet, of course, nor does he yet show any spur; but he is pictured exactly as he is at this time, after his first moult; when in full plumage, the tail feathers are heavy, and give the male bird not only a much larger proportionate appearance, but very greatly improve his form.

Thus much for the *Plymouth Rock* fowls. If any gentleman has better ones, of *any* breed, I shall be very glad to learn it, through your columns. The interest taken in domestic birds, just now, is most laudable, in my opinion, and I should like to know where the best ones are; one may *look* at them, peradventure, if he cannot posess himself of them! I have a few pairs of splendid Shanghaes, recently imported, and some superior Chittagong Fowls, of which I will speak hereafter, if you desire—and drawings of which I have also caused to be made, which I will send you.

G. P. B.

Roxbury, Mass., Dec. 1849.

[For the Ploughman.]

OUR SCHOOLS, AND THE CULTIVATION OF THE MIND.

Mr. Editor.—The object of cultivation is to [illegible] a plant, a tree, an animal, or a mind, admits of culture. He who practices the art of self-culture, unfolds his nobler powers, and becomes a vigorous, excellent, happy being. To succeed in any branch of cultivation, the mind must act as the grand pioneer. It has been said that Agriculture is an intellectual art; so are all arts which are attained by precepts, or built on principles; consequently, the mind must take the lead, and direct our efforts in the business of life. How important then, that this grand directing power should be first well cultivated, expanded and strengthened. How is this to be accomplished? If early education has not been neglected, as it need not be, in this land of free schools, and other means of early instruction, we have at hand, and within ourselves, the means of self-culture.

It is not my intention to attempt to show the various means by which self-culture may be brought into action; for it is a subject too deep and broad, and by far too extensive for a newspaper paragraph. I would only say in general terms, that by this culture, all the principles of our nature grow in harmonious action, just as the various branches of the plant are unfolded.—And from the mind spring forth an intellectual, a moral, a social and a religious branch. These would all grow in harmony with each other if the main stem is properly cultivated. And a man engaged in self-culture will discover in himself various selfish appetites, passions and desires, which need pruning and bending in different directions, so as to aid in ennobling our nature, and fitting us the more perfectly for the station evidently assigned to us by our Creator.

Our free institutions are eminently calculated to awaken, and keep in action our nation's mind. The advantages of a free government are reciprocal. A republic is a powerful means of educating the multitude; and the education of the multitude is necessary to support a republic.—Let our young men remember that the whole hope of the future prosperity of our country rests in them; and let them not forget what our republican country is doing for them; our free institutions are our nation's school. Solemn responsibilities are imposed on citizens of a free state, they are frequently called to discuss, consider and decide on measures of great importance to themselves and the whole republic. Soon will our present youth be called to participate in our national sovereignty, and cherish a regard for the welfare of the republic. A man who desires faithfully to discharge these obligations, will carry on a generous self-culture.

Our free institutions would do still more to cultivate us, were it not for the strength of party spirit. Different opinions as to men and measures will always exist; but if unrelenting passionate desires for party triumph prevail, its blighting influence is fatal to self-culture. Parties array themselves one against another, each, as they say, with truth and justice on their side, thus waging war against themselves, they make a mockery of that truth and justice for which they profess to contend. Yet I conceive every man bound to take a part in politics, acting on principle, and making up his mind independent of party triumphs, and neither permit by his silence nor his action, the passing of bad measures. Self-culture and self-control would favor kind affections, candor, fair dealing and sound judgment in political matters, as well as in the other affairs of life. I cannot conceive that "all is fair in politics" more than in other concerns; each requires honesty and fair dealing.

Men should not be selected for office, merely on account of their ability to sway the multitude, but for their moral excellence and republican virtues. Such men as the latter have often done the state essential service by their disinterestedness. We should look with great favor on the legislature for what they have done in behalf of our public schools; by their appointment of a Board of Education, with an efficient secretary who has devoted his whole time with great assiduity to their improvement, and whose efforts have been crowned with great success. This eminent individual, the Hon. Horace Mann, late secretary, now a member of Congress, has justly earned a title to the highest gratitude of the good people of the commonwealth. There are also munificent individuals deserving our gratitude, who, by generous donations, encouraged the legislature to establish high schools, to prepare accomplished teachers of youth. I also take great pleasure in bearing testimony to the exertions of our present Chief Magistrate [illegible] sociations, to impress with great force on the people the importance of cultivating their minds as well as their fields; which is the paramount object I am desiring to promote. Such individuals are the efficient friends of education, of schools and of mental culture; the true benefactors of their country, whose names and acts should be written on the pages of history and handed down to posterity.

Gentlemen to whom I have referred, placed in stations which command an influence over the people, can be far more efficient than citizens in the common walks of life. We, humble individuals, can expect to exert but a feeble influence among the people at large; we can only in our secluded and retired situations, by our fire-sides, surrounded only by our families, and perhaps our neighbors, consult upon the expediency of building better school houses, selecting and furnishing books for children, urging their punctual attendance at school, advising the employment of more competent and more faithful teachers, and in general, taking such supervision, and giving such advice in schools as we are allowed. Here, it must be acknowledged, that much might be done, but for the want of means, our power is cramped and limited. There are other ways and means, by which the interest of school education throughout our whole community, might be greatly advanced, which I have not time or room to mention. A higher order of teachers is wanted, at least, in our common country schools, and nothing short of higher compensation would command their services. The office of instructor should rank among the most honorable in society; thence a higher education would ensue, and the intellectual and moral energies of the people of this country might be so advanced, as to command the respect and emulation of the civilized world.

Yours truly,
C.

Hamilton, Dec. 19.

☞ The Courier of Saturday has the following under its heading "Geoponics."

Agricultural Education. The editor of the Genesee Farmer says—"We are happy to say that there is every reason to expect that the Legislatures of New York and Massachusetts will each establish an Agricultural School at its approaching session." That the Legislature of New-York will establish such an institution is highly probable. In that great and glorious state, Agriculture is considered as the most important branch of national industry, and a knowledge of the science of husbandry is an accomplishment that is coveted by gentlemen as one of the most important elements of wealth, happiness and independence. What reasons the editor of the Genesee Farmer may have in his possession, which lead to the expectation that the Legislature of Massachusetts will establish an Agricultural School, we do not know; but no such reasons have appeared to our vision. That an attempt will be made by individuals to procure the aid of the State for agricultural education is not improbable; it is, indeed, almost certain. But that any success will follow such an attempt, or that the Legislature will adopt any vigorous measure to support or promote it, are doubtful questions. We dare not indulge the expectation that any thing like an Agricultural School will be established. The editor follows up the announcement of his expectations with some excellent remarks, of which the following are in part:—

Public sentiment at last has been brought not only to *tolerate*, but to demand the professional education of young farmers. Those who have labored long and against a mountain of prejudice to achieve this result, may well rejoice at the success of their indomitable efforts. Glorious will be the day when the noble arts of Tillage and of Farm Economy shall fairly emerge from the *empiricism* of unnumbered ages. Science and Literature have often wandered far, and to little purpose. They are now returning like the prodigal son, tired of feeding on husks, to make an enduring home in the peaceful dwellings of American farmers. The generous soil of this young republic is destined to produce something better than luxuriant crops of grass and grain, fine sheep, cattle and swine. It will yield a bountiful harvest of *men*, improved to the highest attainable point, in all the knowledge, and in all the virtue most useful to intellectual and moral beings.

We thank our Maker that this production of noble men is likely to be as much esteemed in our lifetime, as are bulls and boars, rams and breeding mares. Of all domesticated wild animals, the genus *homo* is most neglected on many farms. England awards premiums of fifty guineas for rearing well-formed calves; while she permits unsightly children to be educated for the poor-house and the prison. Of all things pertaining to the well-being of society and of government, that of training up children in the way they should go is most important. We take the liberty to offer a few hints on this subject in connection with what we regard as a good agricultural education. To attain this object, boys must be educated on well-cultivated, well managed farms. This will withdraw them from many temptations, alike adverse to sound morality and injurious to physical health and mental vigor. The chief corner-stone of human improvement lies in obedience to the letter and spirit of that simple prayer—"*Lead us not into temptation.*" Lead children not into temptation; and even adults had better keep as far removed from it as practicable.

A school on a good farm will possess many advantages beside its exemption from all the bad examples and immoral influences of cities and villages. Pupils can be boarded much cheaper on the soil that produces their daily food, (not a little of which may be the fruits of their own skill and industry,) than they can be elsewhere. The fact is not to be disguised, that to impart a large measure of literary and scientific knowledge to the sons and daughters of a whole community, involves considerable expense, which somebody must pay. Therefore, the writer has long studied to economize, in every practical way, the whole art and science of thoroughly educating every child in a state.

Boarding and tuition are the principal items of expense. The cost of tuition can only be justly reduced by so arranging pupils in large classes that a competent and skillful teacher may instruct many at a time; and of course, at a small fee for each person taught. This implies the existence of large schools and several departments in each, a university in miniature.

It has been found necessary to divide the labor of teaching the Healing Art among six or seven professors in all the medical schools of the United States. Having been regularly through one of these doctor factories, we speak understandingly when we say, that as much science, learning and study are required to form a thoroughly-educated farmer as to make a thoroughly-educated physician and surgeon. Now, we do not propose to force the study of any branch of natural science upon the young men who are to follow the profession of agriculture through life. Those who prefer ignorance to knowledge, poverty to competence, need have no fears that *they* will not be permitted to enjoy their tastes and their predilections. All we desire is, that so many as wish to become familiar with the laws of nature, which govern the improvement and deterioration of soils the improvement and deterioration of cultivated plants and domestic animals, and the improvement and deterioration of *men*, shall have a fair opportunity to gratify so laudable a desire.

EXCELLENT BUCKWHEAT CAKES.

A quart of buckwheat meal, sifted.
A level teaspoonful of salt.
A large handful of [illegible] or home-made yeast.
Lukewarm water to make a moderate batter.

Mix together the buckwheat and Indian Meal, and add the salt. Make a hole in the centre of the meal, and pour in the yeast. Then stir in gradually lukewarm water to make a moderately thick batter when united with the yeast. Cover the pan, set it in a warm place, and leave it to rise. It should be light in about three hours. When it has risen high, and is covered with bubbles, it is fit to bake. Have ready a clean griddle well heated over the fire. Grease it well with a bit of fresh butter tied in a clean white rag and kept on a saucer near you. Then bake in the usual way.

If your batter has been mixed over night, and is found sour in the morning, dissolve a salt-spoon of pearlash or saleratus in a little lukewarm water, stir it into the batter, let it stand a quarter of an hour, and then bake it. The alkali will remove the acidity, and increase the lightness of the batter. If you use soda for this purpose it will require a teaspoonful.

Our Receipt for Curing Beef and Pork.—There being so many applications for our celebrated receipt for curing beef and pork that we think it will be best subserving the wishes of all, by again republishing it:—

To 1 gallon of water,
Take 1½ lb. salt,
½ lb. sugar,
½ oz. saltpetre.

In this ratio the pickle to be increased to any quantity desired.

Let these be boiled together until all the dirt from the salt and sugar, (which will not be a little.) rises to the top and is skimmed off. Then throw it into a tub to cool, and when *perfectly cool*, pour it over your beef or pork to remain the usual time, say four to six weeks, according to the size of the pieces. The meat must be well covered with the pickle, and should not be put down for at least two days after killing, during which time it should be slightly sprinkled with powdered saltpetre.

Several of our friends have not boiled the pickle, and found it to answer well. [Ed. Telegraph, Germantown, Pa.

Hams. The Southern Cultivator notices some hams exhibited at the Georgia State Fair, which were one, two, three, and four years old. The writer says:—"The owner refused to divulge his secret, but as we have fortunately become possessed of it, we here give it. Procure some good, clean hickory ashes, have them perfectly dry; draw your meat from the pickle on a dry day; sprinkle the ashes over the meat pretty thick, being careful not to knock off more salt than what must fall off; then hang up your meat as high as possible; smoke it with cool smoke, made by hickory wood; be sure to take it down before the skipper-fly makes his appearance, being generally in this climate, first of March; pack it away on a dry day in casks: 1st, a layer of hams in perfectly dry hickory ashes; 2nd, a course of corn cobs, &c.; cover your cask snug and tight, and you may rest easy about your hams."

Improvement of Stock. Mr. Eames, in an address before the Jefferson County Agricultural Society, says—We deem it an easy matter to add twenty-five per cent. to the dairies of this county, clear of all expenditure of time and money, by improving the quality of the cows. It is believed that there is no dairy in the country, consisting of ten cows or more, which does not show a difference of one-third in the yield of milk from the best to the poorest cow in the yard, yet the same amount of food is consumed by the poorest as by the best. Now to keep an inferior cow through the long winters of this region, with the prospect of only obtaining a two-thirds yield in the summer, we hold to be the most miserable policy in the world; it is a sufficient deduction in any case, from the gross income of the dairy, to feed and properly tend upon the best cow we can raise or buy.

Order and system are essential to success in every employment, but peculiarly so, in the varied operations of farming.

MASSACHUSETTS PLOUGHMAN

William Buckminster, Editor.

SATURDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 29, 1849

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

Our readers will find the whole of the Message of President Taylor in this day's paper. It is short and therefore readable, compared with some Messages that we have felt obliged to copy to satisfy our readers.

But the Message is a very able as well as a concise document. It is plain and able, whether its doctrines are correct or not. Its statements in regard to our foreign relations are clear and readily understood. No subterfuge is resorted to. No one need to mistake the meaning of the President.

Whether his notions on the tariff and other matters are right or wrong, he expresses them with a conciseness and a boldness becoming a man who is not to be frightened by paper bullets any more than by such as are made of lead or copper.

On the subject of slavery he is quite clever for a southern man and the owner of slaves.

But he is for the UNION at all events, and considers no evil that could happen to our country equal to a dissolution of its bonds. And he still remembers his old doctrine that to Congress belongs the power of making laws for the Union.

It is encouraging to see an old warrior advocating the cause of peace, and recommending the settlement of all difficulties by negotiation and arbitration in preference to the sword.

Choice of Speaker. On Saturday last the two principal parties in the House came to an understanding as to the mode of choosing Speaker. They agreed to take the one that should have the highest number in case no choice should be made on three more ballotings—this number however was to be a majority of a constitutional quorum of the House.

Three ballotings then took place and no choice was effected. The contest now was for the highest number. Mr. Cobb of Georgia (Democrat) obtained 102 votes; Mr. Winthrop of Boston (Whig) 100 votes, and there were 21 scattering. Mr. Cobb having the plurality was declared elected, and was conducted to the Chair by Messrs. McDowell of Virginia and Winthrop of Boston.

☞ The engraving of *Plymouth Rock Fowls* which appears on the first page of our paper this week, is a specimen of the original illustrations for Dr. Bennett's forth-coming book on Poultry, now in press, and to be issued in a few weeks by Messrs. Phillips & Sampson of this city. We shall give another elegant and truthful picture of *Shanghae* fowls, next week, drawn from life by the same artist, F. A. Durivage, Esq. The engravings are *actual portraits*; and possess a real value from this fact. The pictures are exquisitely finished, and are a fair specimen of what Dr. B.'s work is to be; the volume has been delayed a little in order to get it out in the best shape—and we expect that it will prove an excellent practical book for the farmer and poulterer. The copyright of these engravings has been secured according to law.

☞ The President of the United States recommends the establishment of an Agricultural Bureau at Washington, to encourage the farming interest. Such a Board would be extensively useful should it be conducted by practical men. Small sums offered as premiums, to pay for experiments in farming, would operate in favor of all classes, for all are interested in improvements

☞ We have a few specimens of a new ... of whip lash at this office. They are made of leather, solid and rounded by machinery. Mr. Walter Graves of Leveret, Mass. manufactures a great many of them. He says they are extensively used by the Connecticut river farmers, and last much longer than any others. They may be seen here.

☞ The weather is mild again. Tuesday was "as cold as Christmas" and no mistake. But now we have good and wholesome winter weather. Yesterday and Thursday were bright and fine days. We hope all our friends will commence a happy new year some time next week.

☞ Mr. David Towle of Hampton, N. H. has sent us some beautiful ears of yellow corn from his field. The ears are of large size with eight rows of kernels. The kernels are unusually large. Mr. T. does not believe that 141 bushels can be grown on a single acre.

☞ The President recommends an alteration of the tariff and a return to specific duties in all cases where practicable.

☞ The fifth number of the fine Boston Edition of Shakspeare is just published by Phillips, Sampson & Co., 110 Washington street.—The Play is "Measure for Measure." It is embellished with a fine engraving of "Isabella."

Philips, Sampson & Co., Boston, have published the following presentation books for the season:—

Gems of Beauty, or Literary Gift, for 1850, edited by Emily Percival.

The Golden Gift, or Wreath of Gems from the Prose and Poetical Writers of England and America, by Emily Percival.

Friendship's Offering, for 1850. These are very beautiful volumes, prepared with excellent taste, and embellished with choice engravings. We commend them as the most appropriate among the gifts of the season.

Jaques' Fruit Book. We have received a copy of this work entitled "A Practical Treatise on the management of Fruit trees." It also contains descriptive lists of the valuable fruits adapted to the interior of New England. Published in Worcester by E. N. Tucker. pp. 256.

Parker & White have them for sale at 10 Gerrish Block, Blackstone Street, for fifty cents.

☞ The Albany Cultivator for January is received. It contains an "extra" of 30 pages entitled the "Pictorial Cultivator," filled with cuts of poultry, animals, farming tools, fruits and cottages.

☞ The American Agriculturist for January is received. This is the first number of the 9th volume. J. C. Butters, 19 State street, has it for sale in this city. See his advertisement.

Burning of the Capitol in Alabama.—From the Montgomery Advertiser and Gazette we learn that the State Capitol in that city was consumed by fire on the 14th, and nought is left of that once beautiful building but the crumbling walls. The important papers were all preserved.

A French writer says that the United States is not a new nation, but merely a "*prolongation* of Europe."

☞ The "Home Journal" has the following very pleasant notice of a book, in which we take some interest:—

"The Boston Book, being Specimens of Metropolitan Literature," has just been issued in a beautiful duodecimo, by Ticknor, Reed & Fields, of Boston. This is the fourth of a series under the same title, each perfectly independent of the others. The previous volumes were edited by B. B. Thatcher, George Hillard, and H. T. Tuckerman; and we recognize in the present the discriminating taste of James T. Fields—one of our most genial and finished poets, and a gentleman of that happy character which, without ever faltering in its nobility, preserves the warmest affection and respect of all sorts of persons. The contents of the book are by the most famous men and women of Boston—by Prescott, Ticknor, Webster, Holmes, Mrs. Osgood, Hawthorne, Tuckerman, Sprague, etc, etc. We shall endeavor to make room in a future number for some pleasing reminiscences of Cooper, the tragedian, by the accomplished and veteran ex-editor of the Courier, J. T. Buckingham.

☞ We give the following statement for the benefit of those politicians who are anxious to know how they count noses in the House of Representatives in Washington—the account is taken from the Courier:

The Vote for Speaker at the Last Balloting. The House of Representatives of the 31st Congress consists of 231 members when full, and there is one seat which has not yet been filled. Of the 230 who have been chosen, 100 Whigs voted for Mr. Winthrop; five ultra slave men voted for Morehead and Stephens, and there were absent Messrs. Gentry of Tennessee, who who had not arrived, Nelson of New-York and Reed of Pennsylvania, who were not present. Mr. King of Georgia, Whig, has resigned his seat. These make 109, and they are the whole of the actual Whig force. Messrs. Allen, Giddings, Howe of Pennsylvania, (who has voted for Mr. Winthrop) Julian and Root have been Whigs, though they are now Free-Soilers. Add them to the Whig force and it would make up 114.

The Democrats threw 102 votes for Mr. Cobb. Their scattering votes were 6;—4 from the North and 2 from the South; 4 of the Free-Soilers had previously belonged to their party, and 2 members—Messrs. Seddon of Virginia and Phelps of Missouri—were not present; the latter had not arrived. Messrs. Booth, Durkee, King, and Wilmot are the Democratic Free-Soilers. They run up the actual Democratic vote for Speaker to 114—making 228 in all. Messrs. Winthrop and Cobb did not vote. So far as parties are concerned, the House will be equally divided, if Mr. King's seat is filled by a Whig. It was incorrectly stated in the table on Tuesday, that Mr. Burt voted against Mr. Cobb. The parties in Congress are so closely tied that all calculation is thrown away in predicting as to its doings.

Fires. The sufferers by the fire at Winter Hill, Somerville, on Sunday morning, where Mr. Gearfield Learned, of the firm of Learned, Thompson, & Co., proprietors of the Shipping List newspaper, who saved his furniture, damaged about $100. Mr. Carroll lost all his furniture, and barely escaped with his life. He effected an insurance of $500 about three weeks since. Mr. Parmelo, gardener, saved most of his furniture, although somewhat damaged. Mr. Parsons, another tenant, also saved a greater part of his furniture. The house of Mr. David R. Hersey, on the opposite side of the street, was damaged about $150 by being scorched.—The buildings were owned by the Hancock heirs, and were insured in this city. On account of the wind and the scarcity of water, the fire could not be subdued until the whole range, comprising six wooden houses, each two and a half stories in height, was entirely destroyed.

On Sunday evening about nine o'clock, a new dwelling-house in Watertown, near the Mount Auburn depot, was discovered to be on fire. An alarm was given, and the neighbors assembled and extinguished the fire with buckets. Damage from 200 to $300. It was evidently the work of an incendiary.

About 12 o'clock Saturday night, a fire broke ... containing lime, glue and hides, valued at $3000. No insurance; supposed to be the work of an incendiary.

The dry goods store of O. K. Johnson, at Woonsocket, was burnt on Saturday night about 12 o'clock. Loss from 1500 to $3000; insured for $1500.

The wooden building on Steeple-street, occupied by Mr. John Gorham, 2d, for the manufacture of silver ware, was partially destroyed by fire Saturday night, at Providence. Mr. Gorham will lose but little on his stock used in manufacturing wares, as the most of it was placed in the safe for the night. The loss will be considerable on tools, machinery and fixtures. The Earl House, next adjoining, caught fire, but was soon extinguished.

Capital Trial at Worcester. The trial of William E. Knowlton for the murder of Prudence S. Arnold, at Uxbridge, in January last, by cutting her throat, was commenced at Worcester on Wednesday. The prisoner is a man of about twenty-three years of age, with a dull and heavy expression of countenance, and very ordinary intellectual developements, while Prudence, the murdered girl, was but eleven years and ten months old. Knowlton, after the act, went into the street, and there attempted suicide by cutting his own throat. He subsequently made full confession of his guilt, and assigned as a reason for the deed—"love and jealousy."

Sir John Franklin's Expedition. The Panama correspondent of the New York Evening Post, referring to the arrival at Mazatlan, Nov. 13, of H. B. M. ship Herald, says that "She had been in search of Sir John Franklin, and proceeded as far as 72 deg. 10m N. latitude, but could not get any tidings of him. The Herald left the Plover, man of war, to winter in Bhering's Straits. The Plover's boat had been sent up the Mackenzie river in search of Sir John Franklin. The boats were to winter at the nearest station. The impression of the commander of the Herald is, that Sir John Franklin is safe, although I cannot give the data on which that impression is founded."

Washington, December 26. A small wooden dwelling-house, near the Navy Yard, was burnt yesterday morning. A man and three children were consumed in the flames. The calamity is supposed to have been caused by intemperance.

The Supreme Court met at 11, A.M., but a quorum of the judges was not present. The Court adjourned until to-morrow.

The citizens of Lawrence are moving for a free bridge across the Merrimack River. The Courier goes for placing it between the lower part of the town and North Andover. Citizen's meetings have been held in favor of the project, and much interest been awakened. An official town meeting is now proposed.

Singular Coincidence. In 1839, in consequence of a protracted contest for the Speakership in the United States House of Representatives, the President's Message was not delivered until the 25th of December. President Taylor's message was delivered on Monday; we thus have the coincidence, Dec. 24, 1849. So says the Philadelphia Sun.

In the Senate of the United States on the 24th inst., Mr. Cass offered a resolution inquiring into the expediency of suspending diplomatic correspondence with Austria, which was laid over.

Assaulting a Watchman. James Turner, one of the pugnacious-genteel order of young gentlemen, was convicted of this offence in the Police Court, and fined $15 and costs, or in default thereof, to go to the House of Correction.

The question of free suffrage to negroes, which was submitted to the people of Wisconsin at the last election, was lost, a majority of votes having been cast against it.

LATE FROM CALIFORNIA.

Arrival of the Empire City from Chagres. New York, Tuesday evening. The Steamship Empire City, from Chagres, arrived here this forenoon, with California news to the 15th ult, which was brought to Panama by the Steamship "Panama," from San Francisco, with 250 passengers and $500,000 in gold dust. The passengers and gold were transferred to the Empire City, across the Isthmus. The gold dust is chiefly consigned to parties in New York.

The Empire City brought no mail. It was left to come by the Steamer Falcon. John P. Hoff, Esq, bearer of despatches to government, came passenger.

The Panama left the barque St. Mary at Acupulco, twenty-three days from San Francisco, with 200 passengers bound to Panama. The steamer also met a brig at Acupulco 98 days out from Panama. There were 60 persons waiting passage at Mazatlan, for San Francisco. The overland trains which left last summer for California, had all arrived in safety.

In November an election was held in California for the choice of governor, Lieut. Governor, members of Congress, and Representatives to a State Legislature, also to vote upon the acceptance of the new Constitution. The general impression was that P. H. Burnett would be elected Governor. The vote in San Francisco was in favor of Rodman Pierce and George Wright, for members of Congress. It was thought the whole democratic ticket had succeeded in San Francisco.

Col. Sutter, the Whig candidate for Governor, ran on the People's Ticket. It is now said that T. Butler King will not be chosen to the United States Senate. The Legislature will contain a large democratic majority. The chances now stand in favor of William McKendree, Gwinn, and Col. J. C. Fremont, for the United States Senate.

Great activity prevailed at San Francisco. New buildings were rapidly going up, Carpenter's wages were $16 per day. Sacramento city is rapidly growing in population and importance.

The rainy season had commenced, and the roads to the mines were almost rendered impassable. Yueba river rose five feet, and it was thought it would rise much higher. Great suffering existed at the mines, but gold continued as plentiful as ever. The steamer Senator was running on the Sacramento. [Telegraphic to the Mail.

San Francisco Markets, Nov. 15th. There is no material change. Flour rose rapidly after the departure of the last steamer, with sales at $23 25 per barrel above last quotations. It has since receded a shade, and remains firm at quotations. Several cargoes are expected from Chili. Pork was steadily advancing, and was expected to go higher. Lumber—demand brisk, and the rains caused a slight advance in all kinds. Drugs and Medicines—demand very limited and prices low. Tobacco—market slightly improved; best brands meet with fair sales. Liquors—fine qualities improving. Sugars—scarce, and prices advancing; loaf and crushed in much demand, and stock on hand limited. Exchange demands very light, Sight bills on New York, Boston and Philadelphia, 5 to 7 per cent premium; 60 days, par. Gold dust is in demand—brisk—when in coin, $15 25 a $15 75 per ounce.

Test of Affection. *A police Sketch.* Mr. Archibald Stanhope—a groggy sentimentalist, residing in Buckley street—conceived the harrowing suspicion that his wife was not as passionately fond of him as a lady of good taste should be; and, to put the matter to a fair trial, he hit on a little stratagem, which he put to practice yesterday afternoon, with the results hereafter to be detailed. He took a suit of his clothes and composed an effigy of himself, by stuffing the garment with a quantity of straw, which had lately been discharged from an old bed. Having suspended this figure to a rafter in the garret by means of a piece of clothes line, he ensconced himself behind a pile of rubbish in the same garret, to watch the effect. After a while his little daughter came up after a jumping-rope, and caught a glimpse of the suspended figure. She ran down stairs screaming—"Oh, mother!—mother! daddy's hung himself!"—"Now for it," thought Archibald in ambuscade, "we shall have a touching scene presently."—"Hung himself!" (he heard Mrs. Stanhope re... would have done it long ago. Well, I do believe he *has* done it, however," she continued, as she came within view of Archibald's straw representative.

Molly, (to the little girl) I think he ought to be cut down. You had better go into the kitchen and get a knife, my dear; but don't go down too fast, or you might fall and hurt yourself.—Stay; I forgot—there's no knife in the kitchen sharp enough. You can go around to Mr Holmes, the shoemaker, in Sixth street, (he's only two squares off,) and ask him to lend us his paring knife; tell him to wet it a little before he sends it. And, Molly, you can stop at the grocery store as you come back, and get me a pound of seven cent sugar. Poor Archy! (sighed Mrs S. when her daughter had departed,) I hope we'll get him cut down before the vital spark's distinct, for these buryings is very troublesome and costs money. He *wants* to put an end to himself too; and I think I ought to let him have his own way for once in his life; he used to say that I was always a crossing of him. I wish he had'nt spoiled that new clothes-line though; any old rope might have answered his purpose."—Here a voice, which sounded like that of the supposed suicide, broke in on Mrs Stanhope's soliloquy, with "You vile jezabel, I'll be the death of you!" Mrs S. thinking this must, of course, be a ghostly exclamation, uttered a wild scream, and attempted to escape down the narrow staircase. Archibald, starting from his place of concealment, gave chase. Mrs S. stumbled midway on the flight of steps, and Mr S., having just reached her, and made a grasp at her dishevelled hair as it streamed backwards, the amiable partners were precipitated to the bottom together. Both were rather badly bruised, and the cries of the lady raised the neighborhood. Archibald was arrested for making a disturbance, and practising on the tender sensibilities of his wife. He was recognized in $200, and jocularly proposed his suspended effigy as his surety—but "straw bail," as he found to his sorrow, is not acceptable under the administration of Major Jones.

Fires. Two wooden houses, one story and a half each, at East Cambridge, just beyond Cragie's bridge, owned by Silas Buck, were destroyed by fire, between ten and eleven o'clock, Wednesday forenoon. The cause of the fire, or the exact amount of damages caused by it, we did not ascertain.

At Kingston, on Sunday night, a fire broke out in the dwelling house of Mr. Thomas Mitchell, which burnt the building to the ground.—The furniture was saved. Mr. Mitchell came near being smothered before he was alarmed about the fire. Partially insured.

A building, owned by Benjamin Goodrich, and occupied by Mr. Putnam, was destroyed by fire at Danvers, on Tuesday night. An adjoining building was somewhat injured.

New England Society. The anniversary of this Society was held at the Tabernacle, New York; the address was delivered by the Rev. Horace Bushnell, D. D.; it was an able and eloquent one, and no doubt will be published. The election of officers took place at the Astor House on Saturday, and the dinner took place at the same house.

A Man Blown off the Cars. A brakeman, named Michal Quirk, on the 5 o'clock freight train, on the Worcester Railroad, last evening, while going over the Back Bay, was blown off the cars, and landed on the ice, making a hole in the same, but saved himself, by crawling out, and after recovery from the effects of the fall, returned to the city. He was not missed till the train reached Brighton, when an engine returned with a gang of hands, who found his cap, and seeing a hole in the ice, supposed him drowned.

The Ohio Legislature. The Ohio Legislature had not organised according to the latest accounts. The continued balloting for Speaker in the Senate resulted in a tie.

CONGRESS.

Washington, Dec. 24, P. M.

In the Senate, Messrs. Jefferson Davis, and Greene, of Rhode Island, were appointed a committee, to be joined by the House, to wait on the President, and inform him that Congress was organized.

Mr. Dickinson presented a memorial from the Chamber of Commerce of New York, respecting Whitney's Pacific Railroad project.

Mr. Cass offered a resolution inquiring into the expediency of suspending diplomatic correspondence with Austria, which was laid over.

Mr. Foote gave notice of his intention to introduce bills for the organization of the governments of California, Deseret and New Mexico.

Mr. Bradbury offered a resolution, calling for charges filed in the department against officers removed since the 4th of March last. Laid over.

Mr. Seward suggested the appointment of a select committee on the Census.

The President's Message was received, read, and ordered to be printed. Adjourned.

In the House, a resolution offered to adopt the rules of the last session, was laid upon the table.

Mr. Evan's resolution to draw for the choice of seats was adopted, and seats were accordingly drawn.

The President's Message was received, and acted upon as in the upper branch.

Speaker Cobb announced the receipt of several communications from the Secretary of the Treasury, after which the House adjourned to Thursday.

BY MAGNETIC TELEGRAPH.

We have the proceedings of Congress through Thursday the 27th instant, to which day the House adjourned.

Washington, Dec. 27.

In the *House*, the resolution of Mr. Boyd of Kentucky, to adopt the rules of the last session, amended so as to except the 11th rule, and to appoint a committee of five on rules and orders, coming up, Mr. Boyd demanded the previous question. An animated debate followed. Mr. Schenck of Ohio moved an amendment, that as usual, the committee shall never report. Mr. Vinton and other members suggested several desirable amendments to the rules.

Mr. Stephens of Georgia said the House might compel committees to report. Mr. Ashmun objected to the accepting of the 11th rule, which would bring the plurality vote to bear upon the election of other officers of the House, besides the Speaker. Mr. Boyd said he was opposed to a plurality rule, and would strike out exceptions.

Mr. Schenck objected to the appliance of the previous question, as a protestation of the minority, which all parties needed, as there was no majority. The previous question was then rejected by tellers, 92 to 72.

In *Senate*. The first resolution was with a view of the establishment of the states of California, Deseret, and New Mexico. Mr. Houston of Texas offered a resolution, calling for correspondent respecting Santa Fe and Texas.

Mr. Felch of Michigan presented a resolution in favor of a ship canal around the Falls of Niagara.

Mr. Bradbury of Maine gave notice of his intention to introduce a bill to establish a Board to settle claims against the government.

The Vice President presented communications from the War, Treasury, and Navy Departments.

Mr. Yulee of Florida gave notice of his intention to introduce a bill to idemnify Florida for expenses incurred in relation to the Seminoles.—Mr. Clemens of Alabama gave notice of his intention to propose an amendment to the constitution, requiring the Senators to be elected by the people. All the above propositions were laid over or referred.

After a short Executive session, the Senate adjourned to Monday.

In the House, the resolution upon orders was so modified as to adopt the last year's rules until January 15, and a committee of nine upon the rules was appointed.

The President's Message was referred to the committee of the whole.

Mr. Sackett of New York, proposed that the committees of the House be chosen by ballot.—This produced a warm discussion between Mr. Winthrop and Mr. Giddings, respecting the charges ... gentleman ... Mr. Winthrop ... ments against him. Messrs. Schenck, Holmes and Giddings made long speeches. Mr. Sackett's resolution was lost, and a resolution by Mr. Burt of South Carolina, that the Speaker appoint the committees, was adopted. Adjourned to Monday.

The Hungarians. Letter from the President, in reply to Governor Ujhazy:

Washington, Dec. 20, 1849.

Sir,—I have duly received your letter of November 2d, from London, announcing the determination of yourself and comrades to seek an asylum in America.

The people of this Republic have deeply sympathised with the Hungarians in their recent struggle for constitutional freedom, and in the calamities which have befallen their unhappy land; and I am sure that I but speak the universal sentiments of my countrymen, in bidding you and your associates a cordial welcome to our soil, the natural asylum of the oppressed from every clime. We offer you protection, and a free participation in the benefits of our institutions and laws, and trust that you may find in America a second home.

I am, with high respect, your sincere friend,

Z. TAYLOR.

The Legislature of South Carolina adjourned sine die on the 19th instant.

Texas. Advices from Galveston of the 13th, announce that the Texan Legislature has determined to hold Santa Fe. A resolution has been introduced into that body protesting against receiving a delegate from that part of New Mexico. Another resolution has been offered authorizing the Governor to raise a regiment of mounted men to proceed to Santa Fe, and assist in organizing the 11th Indian District,—$100,000 are to be voted to defray the expenses. It is thought that the resolution will pass.

Rise of Railroad Fares. The Directors of the Fitchburg Railroad announce that on and after January 1st, the rates of passenger fare on that road and its branches, will be increased to 2 1-2 cents per mile, and for way travel to 3 cents per mile. It is understood that several other railroad corporations, leading from Boston, have adopted a similar principle.

International Art Union.—We learn that the postponement of the drawing of the International Art Union to January 10th was in consequence of the reception of some very fine paintings from France, the gift of the French Government, which it was desirable to have on exhibition previous to their being placed among the works of art that will be distributed to subscribers.

A man by the name of G. W. Tobey died suddenly on board the ship Mentor from Boston, at San Francisco, on the 9th Nov. Verdict, death from "excessive drunkenness." Fernando Flint, formerly of New York, committed suicide at San Francisco on the 11th Nov.

The Catholic Burial Ground. It will be seen by the report of the doings in the Police Court, that the City Authorities have determined to prevent further interments in the Catholic Burial Ground at South Boston; or, at any rate, to bring to a legal test their power to do so.

Burglars Arrested. The police of Bangor arrested on Monday night three colored men by the names of John Woodbine, from N. York, and Wm. Lord, Jr. and J. H. Griffin; also three whites, Benj. Wade, Alexander Greenlow, of Bangor, and Franklin Shepley, of Oldtown.—They are charged with numerous burglaries and robberies committed lately in Bangor.

Fire at Buffalo. The large building occupied by Livingston, Wells & Co., Express-men, was destroyed by fire on Wednesday morning.—The books and other effects of the firm were saved.

THE END OF A YEAR.

Every anniversary should be an epoch in the Christian life, kindling resolves and marking progress. Civil divisions of time may be less suggestive of spiritual meditations than the ecclesiastical, but they are not without their message and their impression. We cling to faith in special seasons. Except for the associations within the mind, it is true, the last night of December has no more influences to make the heart sober and the tongue silent, than the last night in March; and a foolish soul may play harlequin tricks and enact empty folly on the first day of January as freely as on the first of April. But so it is, by the requisition of laws more felt than understood, that it is not in men of any thoughtfulness, or depth of experience, or deliberate self-study, to be cast over from a remembered past to a waiting and momentous Future, by the occurrence of a birth day or a New Year, without some emotion of awe, without sinking back into their own hidden selves to think and be still, without some palpable hush of the world within.—However arbitrary the dividing line may be, he who can see one of those brief periods, of which the longest life can hardly number a hundred, glide away from under him, and can feel the farewell of the old as it drops into the abyss blending with the salutation of the new as its feet come beautiful upon the mountains,—without some sense of "things unseen and eternal," without seriousness and at least a half-formed prayer, must be either a saint in a perfect sphere, or else a shameless worldling, a withered sensualist, "dead in trespasses and sins." [Register.

A Christmas Sunday School Celebration in Quincy went off with fine effect. A large number of children, two hundred or more, came together in the Town Hall, where was the largest Christmas Tree we have ever seen, brilliantly illuminated, and bearing fruit as if it were the tree of knowledge. The meeting was opened with prayer by the Pastor, Rev. Mr. Lunt, who made a few appropriate and excellent remarks, followed by other addresses, the singing of a beautiful song written by the Pastor, the distribution of gifts &c. &c. The Sunday School is particularly favored in having for a superintendent, Mr. Gideon F. Thayer, whose long experience and eminent ability as a teacher especially fit him for such an office. It was one of the pleasantest occasions of the kind that we have ever witnessed. [Ib.

Twenty-First Annual Report of the Boston Young Men's Benevolent Society, for 1849.—This very useful and well conducted Society was never more efficient than at the present time. The number of members has increased, and the report states that during the last year, funds have been so amply supplied, that no really deserving applicant has been sent empty away. During the year 429 families have received from the Society, wood, coal, groceries, shoes, or other articles of which they stood in need. It is the duty of the Standing Committee to receive applications for charity, and after investigating the claims of the applicants, if worthy, to afford necessary relief. We give below a list of the officers, all of whom are, *ex officio*, members of this Committee.

President, George S. Hillard, 4 Court Street.

Vice President, William Appleton, Jr. 76 Beacon Street.

Secretary, George A. Brown, 154 Washington Street.

Treasurer, Frederick W. Lincoln Jr. 62 Commercial Street.

Auditors, Francis C Allen, Henry D. Fowle.

Standing Committee. Ward 1. Lyman B. Meston, 3 Snowhill Court; 2. Robert Greer, M. D., Sigourney Place; 3. Emery Souther, Green St., cor. Lyman Place; 4. Henry Wenzell, 180 Washington Street; 5. Thomas Gaffield, 53 Allen Street; 6. Martin L. Bradford, 142 Washington Street; 7. S. K. Whipple, 100 Washington Street; 8. Geo. F. Bigelow, M. D., 425 Washington Street; 9. Henry W. Williams, M. D., 10 Essex Street; 10. B. S. Codman, M. D., 484 Washington Street; 11. Geo. S. Wheelright, 68 Dover Street.

Shipwreck and Loss of Five Lives. The 24th inst. about 9 A. M., off Absecom, saw a schooner sunk, with mastheads out of water, and a man in the top of one making signals of distress, whom they succeeded in rescuing after much difficulty, the wind blowing very fresh at the time. His name is Enoch Champion, mate of the schooner Ellen Sedgwick, of Newark. He states that she was from Richmond, bound to Brooklyn with coal, and that in the gale of the day previous, from the south-east, while carrying sail to crawl off a lee shore, she shipped a sea which filled her, and she sank immediately. The mate saved himself by getting on the masthead, the captain and all the rest were drowned. The following are their names:—Benj. Beaston, captain; Charles Lawson and Samuel Saunders, seamen; Richard ——— seaman, belongs on Staten Island; Wm. Cain, steward.

Christmas Eve in Boston was celebrated by the Sunday School of Pitts st. chapel in an exceedingly pleasant manner. Notwithstanding the inclemency of the evening, the chapel was well filled with a crowd of happy faces, who assembled there to celebrate the anniversary of this Sabbath School as well as of the birth of Christ. The chapel was not decorated, and there was no attempt at display. Addresses were made by the Rev. F. T. Gray, Mr. Merrill and others.—It was more of a family gathering than a public celebration, and one which the children seemed to enjoy highly.

Resignation. The Rev. N. L. Frothingham D. D., Pastor of the first congregational church in this city, has tendered his resignation to his parish, which has been accepted. Dr Frothingham was settled in 1815, and has consequently been at his post for a period of nearly forty years. Continued illhealth, which was not restored by a late trip to Europe, is the cause of his resignation.

Rev. Mr. Peabody of Portsmouth, has received a call from the Chauncy Place Church, to become their pastor in the place of the Rev. Dr. Frothingham, whose resignation is mentioned above.

☞ A writer in the Boston Medical Journal, asserts that the mortality of the free people of color of the United States, is more than one hundred per cent. greater than that of the slaves.

☞ It is estimated that there are in London 28,577 needle women, under twenty years of age, the average earnings of each being four pence half-penny a day.

Letters from several members of the Rough and Ready overland company for California, confirm the previous accounts that two members had been killed by Indians in Mexico—viz: Mr. Spaulding of Nashua, and Linsley of Charlestown.

Rutland and Burlington Railroad. Sixteen heavy loaded long freight cars, from Burlington to Boston, loaded with flour from Detroit, Michigan; horns and horn tips, poultry for Christmas, marble, butter, cheese, and various other articles, arrived at the Fitchburg depot, at 3 P. M., on Friday, being the first arrival from Burlington, and the great Western waters, by this new route.

Unitarian Society in Manchester, N. H. The Congregation in Manchester, N. H., has greatly increased during the last year. The church has been enlarged, and on Christmas Eve, the 24th, the ladies had a sale of useful and fancy articles, to aid in furnishing the church. They deserve much credit for the zeal and spirit which they have shown. [Register.

Kennebunk, Me. Mr. Joshua Swan, late of the Cambridge Divinity School, has received a unanimous invitation to be settled in the Unitarian Society in Kennebunk.

MARRIAGES.

In this city, Mr Daniel Webster Sweetser of New York, to Miss Ame ia Hovey of Charlestown; Mr John D. Keating of Boston, to Miss Marietta J. Smith of Cambridge.

Dec. 25, Mr Elbert Clapp to Miss Lucretia Gore.

Dec. 23, Mr Cyrus P. Gould to Miss Lydia Plummer, both of this city.

Dec. 25, Mr Charles L. Lane to Miss Emma J. Dexter, both of Boston.

Dec. 25, Mr Hillard L. Goodale to Miss Sarah E. Bead, both of Boston.

Dec. 26, Mr James French to Miss Lucina, daughter of Simon Wilkinson, Esq., both of Boston.

In Andover, Mr James Fleming of North Tewksbury, to Miss Caroline C., daughter of Capt. Jonas Holt of Andover. [A piece of cake accompanied the card of the happy pair. We wish them a very happy and useful life.]

In Franklin, 12th inst, by Rev T. D. Southworth, Willard Fisher, Esq., to Miss Clarissa, eldest daughter of Mr Elisha Bullard of F.

In Northboro', Dec. 23, George W. Searle, Esq., of this city, to Miss Sarah F. Ball, daughter of Dr S. Ball of N.

In Hamilton, by Rev Mr Mordough, Mr Joseph Felt Dodge of Boston, to Miss Charlotte Maria, daughter of Capt More of Hamilton.

In Concord, N. H., Dec. 15, Mr George C. Cunningham of Newton, Mass., to Miss Charlotte Ann E. S. Page of C.

In Providence, 24th inst, by Rev H. Bacon, Mr P. L. Sproat of Salem, to Miss Elizabeth Morgan, daughter of Mr John Morgan of Beverly.

In Chelsea, Dec. 20, Mr Thomas Punchard of Boston, to Miss Nancy Maria, daughter of the late Pierpont Parker, Esq., of Chelsea.

In Watertown, Dec. 19, Mr George Tainter to Miss Abby Sanger, both of W.

In Sanford, Me., Dec. 17, Daniel Gould, Esq., of Boston, to Miss Elizabeth H. Chadbourne of S.

In Providence, Dec. 20, Mr Orlando L. Parker to Miss Clara S. Fitch, both of this city.

In North Providence, Mr Charles W. Knowles of Norton, Mass., to Miss Ellen M. P. Sumner, late of Bowdoinham, Me.

DEATHS.

In this city, Dec. 21, of consumption, Mr George W Webster, 34, formerly of Portsmouth, N. H.

Dec. 21, Thomas Wilkie, son of Frederick Le Cain, 14 yrs.

Dec. 24, of inflammation on the brain, Joanna Cecilia, wife of James Wash, Esq., 23. She was a bride four weeks ago.

Dec. 26, Charles Emerson, only son of C. E. King, 2½ yrs.

Dec. 19, Mr Jacob Thaxter, 44

In East Boston, Dec 26, Mrs Elsy E. True, 33, formerly of London, Eng., wife of Joseph G. True.

In Cambridge, Dec. 25, Mrs Lucy S., wife of Marshall M. Gault, 30.

In North Danvers, 19th inst, Mrs Nancy Jane, wife of Mr William H. Edwards, 24 yrs 8 mos.

In Phillipston, Nov. 18, Mrs Lydia K. Powers, relict of Dea. Edward Powers, 88.

In San Francisco, Nov 6, of consumption, Daniel P. Andrews, 22, late of Providence, R. I.

In Chelsea, Dec. 26, Capt. Andrew Green, 71.

In Charlestown, Dec. 24, Morris Augustus, son of Morris and Abigail T. Kelly, 5 yrs 21 days; 25th, Mr Andrew Stimpson, a revolutionary pensioner, 90 yrs 6 mos.

In East Cambridge, Dec. 21, Mrs J. E. Gould, 22, second daughter of Giles Sanford, Esq., of Albany.

In Cohasset, Dec. 19, suddenly, John Hunt, 62, formerly of Hull. The deceased retired to bed in perfect health on Wednesday night, and was found dead on Thursday morning.

In Milton, Dec. 22, Henry Baldwin, only son of Susan A. and Henry Rogers, Jr., 8 mos 13 days.

In Middle Haddam, Ct., Mr Daniel Morgan, a revolutionary pensioner, 89.

In Charleston, S. C., Dec. 16, after an illness of three days, Wm Templeton, youngest son of Wm W. and Mary Motley of Boston, 18 yrs.

In Detroit, Mich., Nov. 26, Lucretia, wife of J. B. Long, and youngest daughter of Mr James Rugg of Lancaster, Mass., 23.

In Sacramento City, California, Sept. 20, Charles Hull Smith, of New York, 18 years, a grandson of the late Mrs Hickman of Newton.

NUMBER OF DEATHS IN BOSTON, for the week ending on Dec. 22d, 74.

Causes—Disease of bowels 1; inflammation of do 2; do of brain 1; congestion of do 1; consumption 15; child bed 1; croup 1; cancer 1; drowned 1; dyspepsia 1; diarrhœa 1; dyspepsia 1; dropsy 2; do of brain 3; erysipelas 1; typhus fever 3; scarlet do 3; lung do 8; brain do 2; typhoid do 1; disease of heart 1; infantile diseases 9; inflammation of lungs 4; purpural 1; paralysis 1; pleurisy 2; small pox 1; teething 3; disease of throat 2; unknown 1.

The above includes 7 deaths at the City Institutions. Americans 41; foreigners and children of foreigners, 33. Males 37; females 37. Children under 5 years, 34.

MINIATURE ALMANAC.

[For the week commencing December 30.]

Days of the Week.	Sun Rises.	Sun Sets.	Moon rises.	Length of Days.
Sunday.	7 30	4 36	6 15	9 6
Monday.	7 30	4 37	7 26	9 7
Tuesday.	7 30	4 38	8 39	9 8
Wednesday	7 30	4 39	9 48	9 9
Thursday.	7 30	4 40	10 56	9 10
Friday.	7 30	4 41	morn	9 11
Saturday.	7 30	4 42	1	9 12

REVIEW OF THE MARKETS.

ASHES—The market remains without alteration, and the transactions are quite inconsiderable, Pots are selling in small lots at 6½a7c; Pearls, 6¾a6½c per lb, cash; several parcels of Pots have arrived, which have made them rather duller.

COAL—The supply of Nova Scotia is quite limited, with a good inquiry; Pictou is worth $7, and Sydney 6,75 per chaldron, cash; Anthracite has arrived pretty freely the past week, notwithstanding the lateness of the season; it is in good demand by retail at 5,50a6 per ton, cash.

COFFEE—The demand continues good, and the stock is ... prices rule quite high and are still tending upwards; sales of 1000 bags St. Domingo at 9½c; 500 do do at 10c, and small lots at 10½c per lb, 6 mos.

FISH—The market for Codfish has exhibited no material change since our last; sales of Grand Bank at 2,37½a2,50; 2500 qtls at 2,40, the purchaser paying the wharfage; 1800 qtls, deliverable in New York, at 2,50; small, 1,75, and Bay Chaleur, $2 per qtl, loose; sales of Hake at $1,20a1,25; Haddock, 1,12; Pollock, 1,25 per qtl, loose; Mackerel have been in moderate demand, and prices have not varied materially; if any thing the market is rather firmer; sales of No. 1 at 11,37½a11,50; No. 2, 7,50; No. 3, 5,50a5,62½ per bl; sales of Alewives at 3,75a4 per bl; No. 1 Herring, 40c; and scaled, 56c per box, cash.

HAY—There is a fair demand, and good Eastern pressed is selling at 11,50a12 per ton, cash.

HIDES—The market continues pretty firm, but the transactions have not been very important; sales of 3000 Buenos Ayres at 11½a11¾c; 800 do do, averaging 35a36 lbs, 8c per lb, 6 mos; in Calcutta Cow there have been sales of 200 bales, to arrive, within the range of quotations.

HOPS—There have been no transactions of importance since our last; the stock of this year's crop in the market is only about 700 bales, and there are but few in the hands of growers; the market is firm at 18c per lb, cash.

LEATHER—There is a good demand for New York Sole; sales are making freely at 15½a16c for overweights, and 16½c per lb for light and middle weights.

LIME—There is not much afloat; sales of Thomaston at 68c per cask, cash.

METALS—Sales of sheathing Copper at 20½a21c; yellow Sheathing Metal 7½c per lb, 6 mos; for Iron the favorable accounts from England have given more firmness to the market; sales of 50 tons Scotch Pig, Gartsherrie brand, at $23 per ton, 6 mos; 250 tons do, to arrive, on private terms; Nails are in moderate demand at 3½a4c per lb, cash, and 6 mos; Lead is rather firmer, in consequence of the favorable accounts from England, where it has advanced 10s per ton; sales of 3000 pigs Galena, to arrive, at 4,35 per 100 lbs. cash; it is now held at 4,37½ per 100 lbs; sales of 400 slabs Revelly Tin at 17c per lb 6 mos—now held at 17½c per lb.

MOLASSES—The supply of Cuba sweet is quite small; sales in lots to the trade at 22a23c; 50 hhds old Cienfuegos Muscovado 22a24 c; 20 do Surinam, for retailing, 22a23c per gal, 6 mos; in distilling qualities there have been sales of 1200 hhds Cuba sour at 20c per gal, part 6 mos, and part 5 per cent off for cash.

PROVISIONS—Of mess and clear Pork the market is nearly bare, and what little there is commands high prices; prime is plenty and dull; it is selling at 9a9,50; a small lot of new brought $10; mess brings 12a12,50; clear 13,50a14 per bl, 4 mos; there is a large supply of Beef, and the demand is not very active; sales of Eastern mess at 9a9,50; Western 10a10,50, and favorable brands $11 per bl, 4 mos. Lard is dull, but the market is a little firmer; it is selling slowly at 6½a7c per lb in bls and kegs, 4 mos; sales of Boston cured Ham at 10c per lb, 4 mos; no other kind in the market; Butter and Cheese are in fair demand at quoted prices.

RICE—The market exhibits but little activity; 100 casks sold in lots at 3,31¼ per 100 lbs; 60 do for export, 3¼c per lb, 4 mos; small lots to the trade are selling at 3½a3¾c per lb, 6 mos.

SALT—The market generally is dull, with a good supply of most kinds; sales of Cadiz in lots, from store, at $1,75; Turks Island, 2,12 a2,25 per hhd, cash; sales of two cargoes St. Martin's, at 1,62½, and one at 1,68¾ per hhd, cash.

SUGAR—There has been a very good demand for box Sugars since our last, but without any material alteration in prices; sales of 100 boxes Cuba brown, low grade, at 5¼a5½c; 800 do brown and yellow at 6¼a7½c, mostly at 6½c per lb, 6 mos; in Muscovadoes there have been sales of 50 hhds Cubs at 5½c per lb, 6 mos; the stock of box Sugars is very light.

TALLOW—The market is quite dull; small sales of rendered at 7½c per lb, cash.

WOOLS—For domestic fleece and pulled the demand has been quite active, particularly for low grades and mediums; the sales amount to about 200,000 lbs at full prices; in foreign there has also been a good demand; sales of 100 bales Smyrna white, washed at 20a21c, and some unwashed at 14c per lb, 6 mos; the stock of foreign is light.

AUCTION SALES.

[BY HORATIO HARRIS & CO.]

[On Thursday.]

Lard—160 kegs Western, 6c per lb, cash;

Indigo—5 cases Manila, 51a54c per lb, 4 mos;

Tea—50 hf chests Young Hyson, 27 a 34c per lb; 10 hf do Souchong 11c per lb, cash;

Raisins—45 bf bxs Malaga bunch, $1 25 per box; 120 qr bxs do do, 67c per box, cash;

Figs—700 drums Smyrna, 8½c per lb, 4 mos;

Feathers—18 bales Sicily Hen, 5c per lb, cash;

Sugar—60 bxs Havana brown, damaged, 5a6 10 per 100 lbs, cash;

Maccaroni—100 bxs Naples, damaged, 3¼a3½c per lb, cash;

[BY JOHN TYLER.]

Pork—100 bls Western Mess, 11a11 25 per bl, cash;

Beef—22 bls, 3 32 1-2 per bl, cash.

FLOUR AND GRAIN.

Boston, Dec. 28. The market for Flour the past week has been steady, and prices unchanged; the demand has been moderate; supply pretty large, but not so as to overstock the market; sales of Genesee, common brands, at $5, 37½; fancy brands, 5,75a6; extra, 6,12½a6.50; Michigan and Ohio, 5,25; Missouri and Illinois, common, 5,12½a5,25; fancy and extra brands, 5,50a6,50 per bl cash; there is a good stock of Southern and the demand is not very active; some sales are making at 5,25a5 37½ per bl, 4 mos; 400 bls extra eagle at about $6 per bl, 4 mos; sales of Corn Meal at 3,25; Rye Flour, 3,31¼a3,37½ per bl, cash.

Grain—The Corn market has continued in a dull, languid state, prices ruling rather in favor of the buyer; sales of white at 57a58c for new and old; mixed, 60a61c; new yellow 61a62c; old, 64c per bu, cash; of Oats there is a good supply; sales of Northern at 46a47c; Delaware, 36a37c; Eastern, 40c per bu, cash; small sales of Rye at 65c per bu, cash.

New York, Dec. 26. Flour—Sales of Saturday 1500 bls, and yesterday 4000, including 1500 Canada for ex at 4,52½a4, 68¾ in bond; Southern, sales of 1700 bls, including the various descriptions, at 5,12½a5,31¼; Rye Flour—Sales 800 bls at 2,75a2,81¼ for North River and $3 for sup Jersey; Buckwheat dull at 3,32a4 per bl and 1,62 a2 per 100 lbs; Corn Meal is dull; 4a500 bls Brandywine, in lots, 3,06¼a3,12—now held higher; 600 com to good State, 2,62½a2,81¼; and 500 Jersey, 2,93¾a3, cash.

Grain—Wheat—Sales 3600 bu White Genesee, part if not all at 1,24a1,25; and Red and White Long Island, to the Brooklyn Millers, 1a1,05; Barley wanted at 64a66c for prime; Oats—42a45c for River and Canal, 38a4 c for Jersey; 1000 bu Southern, 35c; Corn—Sales less than 20,000 bu at 59½a60c for old round Yellow, 57a58c for new do, 59a 59½c for old Western Yellow, and 57½a58c for old mixed Western.

Albany, Dec. 26. In Flour there is nothing beyond supplying the retail demand. In the street, Oats 38a39c. Rye 56a57. Barley 58a62½c.

BRIGHTON MARKET.

Thursday, Dec. 27.

[Reported for the Ploughman, on Friday morning, at 10 o'clock.]

At Market, 950 Cattle of all sorts.

250 remain unsold.

Prices. A very few at $6,00. Good at $4,75 a $5,50. Fair at $4,00 a 4,75. Lower grades at $3 a 4,00. The principal portion of Cattle were Oxen, and the low price at which the Beef Cattle were sold, tended to reduce the prices of Working Oxen and Stores generally. The market was characterized as one of the hardest for the drovers remembered. Many Cattle are sold by weight alive, and the usual discount is from thirty to forty per cent, but to obtain a good price by the hundred, more discount is made sometimes than the real difference between live and dead weight.

Sheep and Lambs, 4980 at market.

Prices. 950 sold in Lots.	"	$3,00, 3,50, 4,00, 4,50, 5,50
3000	"	$1,62, 1,75, 1,87, 2,00, 2,50
1030	"	$1,08, 1,09, 1,25, 1,33, 1,50

Total, 49,80.

Swine. Between 900 and 1000 at Market. All sold out. Some remained for retailing. Prices were less than last week by 62 1-2 cents per hundred. The ruling rates 3½ a 4¼; retail, 5, a 6

CAMBRIDGE CATTLE MARKET.

Wednesday, Dec. 26.

[Reported for the Boston Courier.]

At market, 876 Cattle; about 676 Beeves, and 200 Stores, consisting of Working Oxen, Cows and Calves, Yearlings, 2 years old, and 3 years old.

Prices—Market Beef—Extra, $6 per cwt; first quality, $5 50; second quality, $4 75; third quality, $4; ordinary $2 50 a 3 50.

Stores—Working Oxen, $45, 50, 57, 70 a 85.

Cows and Calves—$15, 20, 25 a 28.

Yearlings—$5, 7, 9, 10; two years old, $10, 12, 15, 17 a 20; three years old, $12, 15, 20, 25 a 27.

Sheep and Lambs—3760 at market. Prices: Extra, $2 25, 3 50, 4 a 5. By lot, $1, 1 25, 1 60, 1 75 a 2.

Swine—4½ a 5c; retail, 5 a 6c.

Remarks: In consequence of the large amount offered for the last few weeks, the market has been hard, and prices have slightly declined. 64 cars came over the Fitchburg Railroad, and 41 over the Boston and Lowell Railroad, loaded with Cattle, Sheep, Horses and Poultry.

Number from each state: Maine, 256 Cattle, and 1000 Sheep and Lambs; New Hampshire, 182 Cattle, and 730 Sheep and Lambs; Vermont, 371 Cattle, and 2014 Sheep and Lambs; Massachusetts, 67 Cattle, and 16 Sheep and Lambs. Total, Cattle, 876; Sheep and Lambs, 3760.

New York Cattle Market, Dec. 24.—Offered, 1800 Beeves, (500 Southern, remainder from this State,) 60 Cows and Calves, and 4500 Sheep and Lambs. Beef Cattle—The disagreeable weather of to-day, has to some extent made a very dull market. During the week the demand has been slack, and from the appearance of the yards, late in the afternoon, it is estimated that as many as 400 head would remain over undisposed of. Prices show no remarkable variation since our last. Good retailing qualities sell at from $5 50 to 7 50, as in quality. A lot of 40 head were taken for the supply of the Bermuda contract. Cows and Calves are also dull of sale. Prices, however, show no decline. Sales at from $22 50 to 30 a 40. Sheep and Lambs—The supplies are falling off a little. There was an animated demand, but not brisk enough to clear the stalls. We quote Sheep at from $1 25 to 2 75 a 4 50. Lambs, $1 12½ to 2 a 3 50. 400 left over. [Express.

Charleston, S. C. Dec. 21. Cotton—Cotton market well attended during the week, and sales far exceed those of any corresponding period for some time, and the week closed with a decided upward tendency in prices, amounting on some grades to an ⅛c improvement. Transactions reach 15,000 bales, and receipts 16,377 bales. We quote ordinary to good ordinary 9 1-2 to 9¾; middling to good middling 9¾ to 10¼; middling fair 10½ fair and fully fair 10¾ a 10½c—some little inquiry for Long Cotton.

SALE OF STOCKS.

[On Wednesday.]

[AT AUCTION, BY STEPHEN BROWN & SONS.]

27 shares Eastern RR, 2 per ct adv;
2 do Boston and Prov RR, $89½ per sh;
3 do Boston and Worcester RR, 94 per sh;
2 do Nashua Manuf Co. div off, 455;
32 do Housatonic RR, preferred, 77½ a 78;
1 do Boston Duck Co, 590;
1 do Merrimac Manuf Co, 15½ per ct adv;
5 do Great Falls Manuf Co, 190;
14 do Atlas Bank, 9? per sh;
1 do Boston and Lowell RR, 15 per ct adv;
11 do City Bank, 99½ per sh;
$8500 Rutland and Burlington Railroad Bonds, 65½ a 65¼;
$1000 Ogdensburg Railroad, 7 per ct, payable 1850, 66½ per cent.

AT THE BROKER'S BOARD

(On Thursday.)

11 shares Northern RR,	65
7 do Boston and Prov RR,	88¼
6 do Boston and Maine RR,	102½ a 102
115 rights Winnisimmet Co,	5
10 shares Norfolk County RR,	b 15 d 25
15 do Old Colony RR,	64
13 do Portland, Saco and Portsmouth RR,	86
10 do Suffolk Bank,	131
13 do Western RR,	105
65 do Vermont Central RR,	45¼ a 45
75 do Reading RR,	16¼
7 do Concord RR,	50
$3100 Norfolk County Railroad Bonds,	68

Dividends. The Boston and Lowell Railroad Company have declared a dividend of 4 per cent, payable January 1st, to shareholders 24th December. The New England Worsted Company have declared a dividend of 5 per cent, payable January 1st.

New Bedford Oil Market, Dec. 24. Sperm—Market though quiet, very firm, and full prices realized. Sales of 475 brls inferior at 113c; and 300 bls handsome at 118c, cash; in Nantucket 200 bls sold 115c. Whale—Market dull; sales 1100 brls N.W. Coast, on private terms. Whalebone—No transactions in this market. [Whalemen's Shipping List.

[Retail Prices inside Quincy Market.]

PROVISIONS.

Butter, lump, lb..	20@.. 25	Do. West'n, lb..	8@.. 9
Do. tub, ℔ lb..	14@.. 20	Lard, best, ℔ lb.	8@.. 9
Cheese, new milk, ℔ lb..	7@.. 9	Do. West'n, keg ℔ lb..	7@.. 8
Do. four meal..	4@.. 6	Veal, ℔ lb..	4@.. 10
Eggs, ℔ dozen..	24@.. 25	Calves, whole..	4@.. 7
Beef, fresh, lb..	6@.. 14	Lamb, ℔ lb..	3@.. 8
Do. salted, ℔ lb..	8@.. 10	Mutton, ℔ lb..	6@.. 12
Do. smoked..	..@.. ..	Sheep, whole, lb..	4@.. 6
Hogs, whole..	5½@.. 6	Chickens, ℔ lb..	10@.. 12
Pork, fresh, ℔ lb..	8@.. 9	Turkeys, pr lb..	10@.. 12
Do. salted, ℔ lb..	8@.. 10	Pigeons, ℔ doz.	1 00@ 1 25
Hams, Bos'n, lb..	11@.. 12½	Geese, com.,..	60@.. 75

VEGETABLES.

Potatoes, new, pk	20@.. 25	Onions, doz bun..	..@.. 50
Cabbages, doz..	50@.. 75	Beets, bush..	..@.. 75
Mar. Squashes, lb	..@.. 1	Beans, ℔ bush.	1 50@ 2 00
Turnips, doz.bun.	40@.. 50	Parsley, ℔ box..	..@.. ..

FRUIT.

Cranberries, bu	2 50@ 3 00	Oranges, ℔ box	3 00@ 3 50
Shellbarks, bush..	..@ 2 50	Lemons, ℔ box	2 50@ 3 00
Apples, dried, lb..	6@.. 8	Figs, ℔ lb..	9@.. 10

[Wholesale Prices Inside Quincy Market.]

BEEF, PORK, LARD, &c.

Mess Beef, ℔ bbl, cash price..	10 00@11 00	Ohio Mess..	12 00@12 50
Navy Mess, bbl.	9 00@ 9 50	Do. Prime..	9 50@10 00
No. 1 do..	..@ 8 00	Boston Lard, in bbls, ℔ lb..	6@.. 7
Pork, Bos'n, ex. cl. ℔ bbl..	..@17 00	Ohio do., do., do..	6@.. 7
Bost'n Clear..	16 00@17 00	Hams, Bos'n, ℔ lb..	10@.. 11
Ohio, ex. clear.	14 50@15 00	Do., Ohio, ℔ lb..	8@.. 9
Do. Clear..	13 50@14 00	Tongues, ℔ bbl	16 00@20 00

BUTTER, CHEESE AND EGGS.

Lump, 100 lbs..	20@.. 22	Cheese, best, ton	6½@.. 7
Tub, best, ℔ ton..	13@.. 18	Do, common, ton..	5@.. 6
Shipping, ℔ ton..	7@.. 10	Eggs, ℔ 100 doz..	20@.. 23

FRUIT AND VEGETABLES.

Apples, ℔ bbl..	2 00@ 3 00	Onions, ℔ bush..	60@.. 67
Potatoes ℔ bbl.	1 25@ 2 25	Pickles, ℔ bbl..	..@ 6 00
Beets, ℔ bbl..	..@ 1 25	Peppers, ℔ bbl..	..@ 8 00
Carrots, ℔ bbl..	1 25@ 1 25	Mangoes, ℔ bbl..	..@ 9 00

[Wholesale Prices.]

HIDES.

B. Ayres, dry, lb..	11½@.. 12½	African, ℔ lb..	12..@.. 13½
Pernam., d. s. lb..	7@.. 7½	Calcutta Cow, g. salted, each..	70@.. 80
Rio Grande, ℔ lb..	..@.. 11½	Do., dry..	80@.. 85
Slaughter gr'n, lb..	6@.. 7		

HAY.

Country, new, per 100 lbs..	70@.. 75	Eastern pressed, ℔ ton (cargo)	11 50@12 00
		Straw, 100 lbs..	50@.. 55

HOPS.

1st sort, 1849, lb	16 @.. 18	1848, 2d sort..	..@.. ..

LEATHER.

Phil., best, ℔ lb..	21@.. 24	Boston, red..	14@.. 16
Do. country..	21@.. 23	Do., slaughter..	17@.. 18
Balt., city tan..	22@.. 24	Sole, hemlock..	17@.. 17½
Do., dry hide..	22@.. 24	Do. heavy..	..@.. ..

LIME.

Thomaston, ℔ cask..	68@.. 75	L'Etang, St. Geo co. white l'p..	..@.. ..
Camden..	60@.. 65	Do. 1st quality..	..@.. ..

WOOL.

Saxony fl'ce, lb..	40@.. 43	Com. to ¼ blood..	27@.. 29
Do. prime..	39@.. 42	Lambs, super..	33@.. 35
Do. lambs..	..@.. 24	Do. 1st quality..	21@.. 25
Am. full blood..	35@.. 37	Do. 2d do..	..@.. 21
Am. ¾ blood..	30@.. 32	Do. 3d do..	14@.. 17

The President's Message.

Fellow-citizens of the Senate and House of Representatives:

Sixty years have elapsed since the establishment of this Government, and the Congress of the United States again assembles, to legislate for an empire of freemen. The predictions of evil prophets, who formerly pretended to foretell the downfall of our institutions, are now remembered only to be derided, and the United States of America at this moment, present to the world the most stable and permanent Government on earth.

Such is the result of the labors of those who have gone before us. Upon Congress will eminently depend the future maintenance of our system of free government, and the transmission of it, unimpaired, to posterity.

We are at peace with all the nations of the world, and seek to maintain our cherished relations of amity with them. During the past year, we have been blest, by a kind Providence, with an abundance of the fruits of the earth; and, although the destroying angel, for a time, visited extensive portions of our territory with the ravages of a dreadful pestilence, yet, the Almighty has at length deigned to stay his hand, and to restore his inestimable blessing of general health to a people who have acknowledged his power, deprecated his wrath, and implored his personal protection.

While enjoying the benefits of amicable intercourse with foreign nations, we have not been insensible to the distractions and wars which have prevailed in other parts of the world. It is a proper theme of thanksgiving to Him who rules the destinies of nations, that we have been able to maintain, amidst all these contests, an independent and neutral position towards all belligerent powers.

FOREIGN RELATIONS.

Our relations with Great Britain are of the most friendly character. In consequence of the recent alteration of the British navigation acts, British vessels from British and other foreign ports, will, (under our existing laws,) after the first day of January next, be admitted to entry in our ports, with cargoes of the growth, manufacture, or production of any part of the world, on the same terms, as to duties, imposts, and charges, as vessels of the United States with their cargoes: and our vessels will be admitted to the same advantages in British ports, entering therein on the same terms as British vessels. Should no order in council disturb this legislative arrangement, the late act of the British Parliament by which Great Britain is brought within the terms proposed by the act of Congress of the 1st of March, 1817, it is hoped, will be productive of benefit for both countries.

A slight interruption of diplomatic intercourse, which occurred between this Government and France, I am happy to say, has been terminated, and our Minister there has been received. It is therefore unnecessary to refer, now, to the circumstances which led to that interruption. I need not express to you the sincere satisfaction with which we shall welcome the arrival of another Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary from a sister republic, to which we have so long been, and still remain, bound by the strongest ties of amity.

Shortly after I had entered upon the discharge of the Executive duties, I was apprized that a war-steamer, belonging to the German Empire, was being fitted out in the harbor of New York, with the aid of some of our naval officers, rendered under the permission of the late Secretary of the navy. This permission was granted during an armistice between that Empire and the Kingdom of Denmark, which had been engaged in the Schleswig-Holstein war. Apprehensive that this act of intervention, on our part, might be viewed as a violation of our neutral obligations, incurred by the treaty with Denmark, and of the provisions of the act of Congress of the 20th of April, 1818, I directed that no further aid should be rendered by any agent or officer of the Navy; and I instructed the Secretary of State to apprize the Minister of the German Empire accredited to this Government, of my determination to execute the law of the United States, and to maintain the faith of treaties with all nations.

The correspondence, which ensued between the Department of State and the Minister of the German Empire, is herewith laid before you. The execution of the law and the observance of the treaty were deemed by me to be due to the honor of the country, as well as to the sacred obligations of the Constitution. I shall not fail to pursue the same course, should a similar case arise with any other nation. Having avowed the opinion, on taking the oath of office, that, in disputes between conflicting foreign governments, it is our interest, not less than our duty, to remain strictly neutral, I shall not abandon it. You will perceive, from the correspondence submitted to you, in connection with this subject, that the course adopted in this case has been properly regarded by the belligerent powers interested in the matter.

Although a minister of the United States to the German Empire was appointed by my predecessor, in August, 1848, and has, for a long time, been in attendance, at Frankfort-on-the-Maine; and although a Minister, appointed to represent that Empire, was received and accredited here, yet no such Government as that of the German Empire has been definitively constituted. Mr. Donelson, our representative at Frankfort, remained there several months, in the expectation that a union of the German States, under one constitution, or form of government, might, at length, be organized.

It is believed, by those well acquainted with the existing relations between Prussia and the States of Germany, that no such union can be, permanently, established without her co-operation. In the event of the formation of such a union, and the organization of a central power in Germany, of which she would form a part, it would become necessary to withdraw our Minister at Berlin; but while Prussia exists as an independent kingdom, and diplomatic relations are maintained with her, there can be no necessity for the continuance of the mission to Frankfort. I have, therefore, recalled Mr. Donelson, and directed the archives of the legation, at Frankfort, to be transferred to the American legation at Berlin.

THE CUBA EXPEDITION.

Having been apprized that a considerable number of adventurers were engaged in fitting out a military expedition, within the United States, against a foreign country; and believing, from the best information I could obtain, that it was destined to invade the Island of Cuba, I deemed it due to the friendly relations existing between the United States and Spain; to the treaty between the two nations; to the laws of the United States, and above all, to the American honor, to exert the lawful authority of this Government in suppressing the expedition, and preventing the invasion. To this end, I issued a proclamation, enjoining it upon the officers of the United States, civil and military, to use all lawful means within their power. A copy of that proclamation is herewith submitted. The expedition has been suppressed. So long as the act of Congress of the 20th of April, 1818, which owes its existence to the law of nations, and to the policy of Washington himself, shall remain on our statute book, I hold it to be the duty of the Executive faithfully obey its injunctions.

While this expedition was in progress, I was informed that a foreigner, who claimed our protection, had been clandestinely, and, as was supposed, forcibly, carried off in a vessel from New Orleans to the island of Cuba. I immediately caused such steps to be taken as I thought necessary, in case the information I had received should prove correct, to vindicate the honor of the country and the right of every person seeking an asylum on our soil to the protection of our laws. The person alleged to have been abducted was promptly restored, and the circumstances of the case are now about to undergo investigation before a judicial tribunal. I respectfully suggest, that although the crime charged to have been committed in this case is held odious, as being in conflict with our opinions on the subject of national sovereignty and personal freedom, there is no prohibition of it, or punishment for it, provided in any act of Congress. The expediency of supplying this defect in our criminal code is therefore recommended to your consideration.

I have scrupulously avoided any interference in the wars and contentions which have recently distracted Europe.

HUNGARY AND AUSTRIA.

During the late conflict between Austria and Hungary, there seemed to be a prospect that the latter might become an independent nation. However faint that prospect at the time appeared, I thought it my duty, in accordance with the general sentiments of the American people, who deeply sympathized with the Magyar patriots, to stand prepared, upon the contingency of the establishment by her of a permanent government, to be the first to welcome independent Hungary into the family of nations. For this purpose, I invested an agent, then in Europe, with power to declare our willingness promptly to recognise her independence, in the event of her ability to sustain it. The powerful intervention of Russia, in the contest, extinguished the hopes of the struggling Magyars. The United States did not, at any time, interfere in the contest; but the feelings of the nation were strongly enlisted in the cause, and by the sufferings of a brave people, who had made a gallant though unsuccessful effort to be free.

Our claims upon Portugal have been, during the past year, prosecuted with renewed vigor, and it has been my object to employ every effort of honorable diplomacy to procure their adjustment. Our late Charge d'Affaires at Lisbon, the Hon. George W. Hopkins, made able and energetic efforts to settle these unpleasant matters of controversy, and to obtain indemnity for the wrongs which were the subject of complaint. Our present Charge d' Affaires at that court wil', also, bring to the prosecution of these claims, ability and zeal. The revolutionary and distracted condition of Portugal, in past times, has been represented as one of the leading causes of her delay in indemnifying our suffering citizens. But I must now say, it is matter of profound regret that these claims have not yet been settled. The omission of Portugal to do justice to the American claimants has now assumed a character so grave and serious, that I shall shortly make it the subject of a special message to Congress, with a view to such ultimate action as its wisdom and patriotism may suggest.

With Russia, Austria, Prussia, Sweden, Denmark, Belgium, the Netherlands, and the Italian States, we still maintain our accustomed amicable relations.

During the recent revolutions in the Papal States, our Charge d'Affaires at Rome has been unable to present his letters of credence, which, indeed, he was directed by my predecessor to withhold until he should receive further orders. Such was the unsettled condition of things in those States, that it was not deemed expedient to give him any instructions on the subject of presenting his credential letter different from those with which he had been furnished by the late administration, until the 25th of June last when, in consequence of the want of accurate information of the exact state of things, at that distance from us, he was instructed to exercise his own discretion in presenting himself to the then existing government, if, in his judgment, sufficiently stable: or if not, to await further events. Since that period, Rome has undergone another revolution, and he abides the establishment of a government sufficiently permanent to justify him in opening diplomatic intercourse with it.

MEXICO.

With the republic of Mexico it is our true policy to cultivate the most friendly relations. Since the ratification of the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, nothing has occurred of a serious character to disturb them. A faithful observance of the treaty, and a sincere respect for her rights, cannot fail to secure the lasting confidence and friendship of that republic. The message of my predecessor to the House of Representatives, of the 8th of February last, communicating, in compliance with a resolution of that body, a copy of a paper called a protocol, signed at Queretaro on the 30th of May, 1848, by the commissioners of the United States and the minister of foreign affairs of the Mexican government, having been a subject of correspondence between the Department of State and the Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of that republic accredited to this government, a transcript of that correspondence is herewith submitted.

The Commissioner on the part of the United States, for making the boundary between the two republics, though delayed in reaching San Diego by unforeseen obstacles, arrived at that place within a short period after the time required by the treaty, and was there joined by the Commissioner on the part of Mexico. They entered upon their duties; and, at the date of the latest intelligence from that quarter, some progress had been made in the survey. The expenses incident to the organization of the commission, and to its conveyance to the point where its operations were to begin, have so much reduced the fund appropriated by Congress, that a further sum, to cover the charges which must be incurred during the present fiscal year, will be necessary. The great length of frontier along which the boundary extends, the nature of the adjacent territory, and the difficulty of obtaining supplies, except at or near the extremes of the line, render it also indispensable that a liberal provision should be made to meet the necessary charges during the fiscal year ending on the 30th of June, 1851. I accordingly ecommend this subject to your attention.

In the adjustment of the claims of American citizens on Mexico, provided for by the late treaty, the employment of counsel, on the part of the government, may become important for the purpose of assisting the commissioners in protecting the interests of the United States. I recommend this subject to the early and favorable consideration of Congress.

Complaints have been made in regard to the inefficiency of the means provided by the government of New Grenada for transporting the United States mail across the Isthmus of Panama, pursuant to our Postal convention with that republic, of the 6th of March 1844. Our Charge d'Affaires at Bogota has been directed to make such representations to the government of New Grenada as will, it is hoped, lead to a prompt removal of this cause of complaint.

The sanguinary civil war with which the Republic of Venezuela has for some time past been ravaged, has been brought to a close. In its progress the rights of some of our citizens resident or trading there have been violated. The restoration of order will afford the Venezuelan government an opportunity to examine and redress these grievances and others of longer standing, which, our Representatives at Caracces have, hitherto, ineffectually urged upon the attention of that government.

THE PACIFIC COAST.

The extension of the coast of the United States on the Pacific, and the unexampled rapidity with which the inhabitants of California, especially are increasing in numbers, have imparted new consequence to our relations with the other countries whose territories border upon that ocean. It is probable that the intercourse between these countries and our possessions in that quarter, particularly with the Republic of Chili, will become extensive and mutually advantageous in proportion as California and Oregon shall increase in population and wealth. It is desirable, therefore, that this Government should do every thing in its power to foster and strengthen its relations with those States, and that the spirit of amity between us should be mutual and cordial.

I recommend the observance of the same course towards all other American States. The United States stand as the great American power to which, as their natural ally and friend, they will always be disposed, first, to look for mediation and assistance, in the event of any collision between them and any European power. As such, we may often kindly mediate in their behalf, without entangling ourselves in foreign wars or unneccessary controversies.—Whenever the faith of our treaties with any of them shall require our interference, we must necessarily interpose.

A convention has been negotiated with Brazil, providing for the satisfaction of American claims on that government, and it will be submitted to the Senate. Since the last session of Congress, we have received an Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary from that Empire, and our relations with it are founded upon the most amicable understanding.

THE AFRICAN SLAVE TRADE.

Your attention is earnestly invited to an amendment of our existing laws relating to the African slave trade, with a view to the effectual suppression of that barbarous traffic. It is not to be denied, that this trade is still in part carried on by means of vessels built in the United States, and owned or navigated by some of our citizens. The correspondence between the department of State and the Minister and Consul of the United States at Rio de Janeiro, which has from time to time been laid before Congress, represents that it is a customary device to evade the penalties of our laws by means of sea-letters. Vessels sold in Brazil, when provided with such papers by the Consul, instead of returning to the United States for a new register, proceed, at once, to the coast of Africa, for the purpose of obtaining cargoes of slaves.

Much additional information, of the same character, has recently been transmitted to the Department of State. It has not been considered the policy of our laws to subject an American citizen, who, in a foreign country, purchases a vessel built in the United States, to the inconvenience of sending her home for a new register, before permitting her to proceed on a voyage. Any alteration of the laws, which might have a tendency to impede the free transfer of property in vessels between our citizens, or the free navigation of those vessels between different parts of the world, when employed in lawful commerce, should be well and cautiously considered; but I trust that your wisdom will devise a method by which our general policy, in this respect, may be preserved, and at the same time the abuse of our flag, by means of sea-letters, in the manner indicated, may be prevented.

Having ascertained that there is no prospect of the reunion of the five States of Central America, which formerly composed the Republic of that name, we have separately negotiated with some of them treaties of amity and commerce, which will be laid before the Senate.

A contract having been concluded with the State of Nicaragua, by a company composed of American citizens, for the purpose of constructing a ship canal through the territory of that State, to connect the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, I have directed the negotiation of a treaty with Nicaragua, pledging both Governments to protect those who shall engage in and perfect the work. All other nations are invited by the State of Nicaragua to enter into the same treaty stipulations with her; and the benefit to be derived by each from such an arrangement, will be the protection of this great inter-oceanic communication against any power which might seek to obstruct it, or to monopolize its advantages. All States entering into such a treaty, will enjoy the right of passage through the canal on payment of the same tolls.

The work, if instructed under these guaranteis, will become a bond of peace, instead of a subject of contention and strife, between the nations of the earth. Should the great maritime states of Europe consent to this arrangement, (and we have no reason to suppose that a proposition so fair and honorable will be opposed by any,) the energies of their people and ours will co-operate in promoting the success of the enterprise. I do not recommend any appropriation from the National treasury for this purpose, nor do I believethat such an appropriation is necessary. Private enteprise, if properly protected, will complete the work, should it prove to be feasible. The parties who have procured the charter from Nicaragua for its construction, desire no assistance from this Government beyond its protection; and they profess that, having examined the proposed line of communication, they will be ready to commence the undertaking whenever that protection shall be extended to them. Should there appear to be reason, on examining the whole evidence, to entertain a serious doubt of the practicability of constructing such a canal, that doubt could be speedily solved by an actual exploration of the route.

Should such a work be constructed, under the common protection of all nations, for equal benefits to all, it would be neither just nor expedient that any great maritime State should command the communication. The territory through which the canal may be opened ought to be freed from the claims of any foreign power. No such power should occupy a position that would enable it hereafter to exercise so controling an influence over the commerce of the world, or to obstruct a highway which ought to be dedicated to the common uses of mankind.

The routes across the Isthmus, at Tehuantepec and Panama, are also worthy of our serious consideration. They did not fail to engage the attention of my predecessor. The negotiation of the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, was instructed to offer a very large sum of money for the right of transit across the Isthmus of Tehuantepec. The Mexican Government did not accede to the proposition for the purchase of the right of way, probably because it had already contracted with private individuals for the construction of a passage from the Guasacualco river to Tehuantepec. I shall not renew any proposition to purchase, for money, a right which ought to be equally secured to all nations, on payment of a reasonable toll to the owners of the improvement, who would, doubtless, be well contented with that compensation and the guarantees of the maritime States of the world, in separate treaties negotiated with Mexico, binding her and them to protect those who should construct the work. Such guarantees would do mo e to secure the completion of the communication through the territory of Mexico, than any other reasonable consideration that could be offered; and as Mexico herself would be the greatest gainer by the opening of this communication between the Gulf and the Pacific ocean, it is presumed that she would not hesitate to yield her aid, in the manner proposed, to accomplish an improvement so important to her own best interests.

We have reason to hope that the proposed railroad across the Isthmus at Panama, will be successfully constructed, under the protection of the late treaty with New Grenada, ratified and exchanged by my predecessor, on the 10th day of June, 1848, which guaranties the perfect neutrality of the Isthmus, and the rights of sovereignty and property of New Grenada over that territory, "with a view that the free transit from ocean to ocean, may not be interrupted or embarrassed" during the existence of the treaty. It is our policy to encourage every practicable route across the Isthmus, which connects North and South America, either by railroad or canal, which the energy and enterprise of our citizens may induce them to complete; and I consider it obligatory upon me to adopt that policy, especially in consequence of the absolute necessity of facilitating intercourse with our possessions on the Pacific.

The position of the Sandwich Islands, with reference to the territory of the United States on the Pacific; the success of our persevering and benevolent citizens who have repaired to that remote quarter in christianizing the natives and inducing them to adopt a system of government and laws suited to their capacity and wants; and the use made by our numerous whaleships of the harbors of the islands as places of resort for obtaining refreshments and repairs, all combine to render their destiny peculiarly interesting to us. It is our duty to encourage the authorities of those islands in their efforts to improve and elevate the moral and political condition of the inhabitants; and we should make reasonable allowance for the difficulties inseparable from this task. We desire that the islands may maintain their independence, and that other nations should concur with us in this sentiment. We should in no event be indifferent to their passing under the dominion of any other power. The principal commercial States have in this a common interest, and it is to be hoped that no one of them will attempt to interpose obstacles to the entire independence of the islands.

TREASURY.

The receipts into the treasury for the fiscal year ending on the thirtieth of June last, were, in cash, forty-eight millions eight hundred and thirty thousand ninety-seven dollars and fifty cents, ($48,830,097 50,) and in Treasury notes funded, ten millions eight hundred and thirty-three thousand dollars, ($10,833,000,) making an aggregate of fifty-nine millions six hundred and sixty-three thousand ninety-seven dollars and fifty cents, ($59,663,097 50,) and the expenditures for the same time were, in cash, forty-six millions seven hundred and ninety-eight thousand six hundred and sixty-seven dollars and eighty-two cents, ($46,798,667 82) and in Treasury notes funded, ten millions eight hundred and thirty-three thousand dollars, ($10,833,000,) making an aggregate of fifty-seven millions six hundred and thirty-one thousand six hundred and sixty-seven dollars and eighty-two cents, ($57,631,667 82.)

The accounts and estimates which will be submitted to Congress in the Report of the Secretary of the Treasury, show that there will be a deficit, occasioned by the expenses of the Mexican war and treaty, on the first day of July next, of five millions eight hundred and twenty-eight thousand one hundred and twenty-one dollars and sixty-six cents, ($5,828,121 66,) and on the first day of July, 1851, of ten millions five hundred and thirty-seven thousand and ninety-two dollars and seventy three cents, ($10,507,092 73,) making in the whole a probable deficit, to be provided for, of sixteen millions three hundred and seventy-five thousand two hundred and fourteen dollars and thirty-nine cents, ($16,375,214 39) The extraordinary expenses of the war with Mexico, and the purchase of California and New Mexico, exceed in amount this deficit, together with the loans heretofore made for those objects. I therefore recommend that authority be given to borrow whatever sum may be necessary to cover that deficit. I recommend the observance of strict economy in the appropriation and expenditure of public money.

THE TARIFF.

I recommend a revision of the existing tariff, and its adjustment on a basis which may augment the revenue. I do not doubt the right or duty of Congress to encourage American industry, which is the great source of national as well as individual wealth and prosperity. I look to the wisdom and patriotism of Congress for the adoption of a system which may place home labor, at last, on a sure and permanent footing, and, by due encouragement of manufactures, give a new and increased stimulus to agriculture, and promote the development of our vast resources and the extension of our commerce. Believing that to the attainment of these ends (as well as the necessary augmentation of the revenue and the prevention of frauds) a system of specific duties is best adapted, I strongly recommend to Congress the adoption of that system, fixing the duties at rates high enough to afford substantial and sufficient encouragement to our own industry, and at the same time so adjusted as to insure stability.

The question of the continuance of the Subtreasury system is respectfully submitted to the wisdom of Congress. If continued, important modifications of it appear to be indispensable.

For further details and views on the above and other matters connected with commerce, the finances and revenue, I refer to the report of the Secretary of the Treasury.

AGRICULTURAL BUREAU.

No direct aid has been given by the General Government to the improvement of agriculture, except by the expenditure of small sums for the collection and publication of agricultural statistics, and for some chemical analyses, which have been, thus far, paid for out of the patent fund. This aid is, in my opinion, wholly inadequate. To give to this leading branch of American industry the encouragement which it merits, I respectfully recommend the establishment of an Agricultural Bureau, to be connected with the Department of the Interior. To elevate the social condition of the agriculturist, to increase his prosperity, and to extend his means of usefulness to his country, by multiplying his sources of information, should be the study of every statesman, and a primary object with every legislator.

No civil government having been provided by Congress for California, the people of that Territory, impelled by the necessities of their political condition, recently met in convention for the purpose of forming a constitution and State government, which the latest advices give me reason to suppose, has been accomplished; and it is believed they will shortly apply for the admission of California into the Union as a sovereign State. Should such be the case, and should their Constitution be conformable to the requisition of the Constitution of the United States, I recommend their application to the favorable consideration of Congress.

The people of New Mexico will also, it is believed, at no very distant period present themselves for admission into our Union. Preparatory to the admission of California and New Mexico, the people of each will have instituted for themselves a republican form of government, "laying its foundation in such principles, and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness."

By awaiting their action, all causes of uneasiness may be avoided, and confidence and kind feeling preserved. With a view of maintaining the harmony and tranquility so dear to all, we would abstain from the introduction of those exciting topics of a sectional character which have hitherto produced painful apprehensions in the public mind; and I repeat the solemn warning of the first and most illustrious of my predecessors against furnishing "any ground for characterizing parties by geographical discriminations."

A Collector has been appointed at San Francisco, under the act of Congress extending the revenue laws over California; and measures have been taken to organize the custom-house at that and the other ports mentioned in that act, at the earliest period practicable. The collector proceeded overland, and advices have not yet been received of his arrival at San Francisco. Meanwhile, it is understood that the customs have continued to be collected there by officers acting under the military authority, as they were during the administration of my predecessor. It will, I think, be expedient to confirm the collections thus made, and direct the avails, (after such allowances as Congress may think fit to authorize,) to be expended within the Territory, or to be paid into the Treasury, for the purpose of meeting appropriations for the improvement of its rivers and harbors.

A party, engaged on the coast survey, was despatched to Oregon in January last. According to latest advices, they had not left California; and directions have been given to them, as soon as they shall have fixed on the sites of the two lighthouses and the buoys authorised to be constructed and placed in Oregon, to proceed, without delay, to make reconnoissance of the most important points on the coast of California, and especially to examine and determine on sites for lighthouses on that coast, the speedy erection of which is urgently demanded by our rapidly increasing commerce.

I have transformed the Indian Agencies for Upper Missouri and Council Bluffs to Santa Fe and Salt Lake; and have caused to be appointed sub-agents in the valleys of the Gila, the Sacramento, and San Joaquin rivers. Still further legal provision will be necessary for the effective and successful extension of our system of Indian intercourse over the new territories.

I recommend the establishment of a branch mint in California, as it will, in my opinion, afford important facilities to those engaged in mining, as well as to the Government in the disposition of the mineral lands.

I also recommend that commissioners be organized by Congress, to examine and decide upon the validity of the present subsisting land titles in California and New Mexico; and that provision be made for the establishment of offices of Surveyor General in New Mexico, California, and Oregon, for the surveying and bringing into market the public lands in those Terriories.—Those lands, remote in position and difficult of access, ought to be disposed of on terms liberal to all, but especially favorable to the early emigrants.

In order that the situation and character of the principal mineral deposits in California may be ascertained, I recommend that a geological and mineralogical exploration be connected with the linear surveys, and that the mineral lands be divided into small lots suitable for mining, and be disposed of, by sale or lease, so as to give our citizens an opportunity of procuring a permanent right of property in the soil. This would seem to be as important to the success of mining as of agricultural pursuits.

The great mineral wealth of California, and the advantages which its ports and harbors, and those of Oregon, afford to commerce, especially with the islands of the Pacific and Indian oceans, and the populous regions of Eastern Asia, make it certain that there will arise, in a few years, large and prosperous communities on our western coast. It, therefore, becomes important that a line of communication, the best and most expeditious which the nature of the country will admit, should be opened, within the territory of the United States, from the navigable waters of the Atlantic or the Gulf of Mexico, to the Pacific. Opinion, as elicited and expressed by two large and respectable conventions, lately assembled at St. Louis and Memphis, points to a railroad as that which, if practicable, will best meet the wishes and wants of the country.

But while this, if in successful operation, would be a work of great national importance, and of a value to the country which it would be difficult to estimate, it ought also to be regarded as an undertaking of vast magnitude and expense, and one which must, if it be, indeed, practicable, encounter many difficulties in its construction and use. Therefore, to avoid failure and disappointment; to enable Congress to judge whether, in the condition of the country through which it must pass, the work be feasible, and if it be found so, whether it should be taken as a national improvement or left to individual enterprise; and in the latter alternative, what aid, if any, ought to be extended to it by the Government, I recommend as a preliminary measure a careful reconnoisance of the several proposed routes by a scientific corps, and a report as to the practicability of making such a road, with an estimate of the cost of its construction and support.

For further views on these and other matters connected with the duties of the Home Department, I refer you to the report of the Secretary of the Interior.

I recommend early appropriations for continuing the river and harbor improvements which have been already begun, and also for the construction of those for which estimates have been made, as well as for examinations and estimates preparatory to the commencement of such others, as the wants of the country, and especially the advance of our population over new districts, and the extension of commerce, may render necessary. An estimate of the amount which can be advantageously expended within the next fiscal year, under the direction of the Bureau of Topographical Engineers, accompanies the report of the Secretary of War, to which I respectfully invite the attention of Congress.

The cession of territory made by the late treaty with Mexico has greatly extended our exposed frontier, and rendered its defence more difficult. That treaty has also brought us under obligations to Mexico, to comply with which a military force is requisite. But our military establishment is not materially changed, as to its efficiency, from the condition in which it stood before the commencement of the Mexican war. Some addition to it will therefore be necessary; and I recommend to the favorable consideration of Congress an increase of the several corps of the army at our distant western posts, as proposed in the accompanying report of the Secretary of War.

Great embarrassment has resulted from the effect upon rank, in the army, heretofore given to brief and staff commissions. The views of the Secretary of War, on this subject, are deemed important, and if carried into effect, will, it is believed, promote the harmony of the service. The plan proposed for retiring disabled officers, and providing an asylum for such of the rank and file as from age, wounds and other infirmities occasioned by service, have become unfit to perform their respective duties, is recommended as a means of increasing the efficiency of the army, and as an act of justice, due from a grateful country to the faithful soldier.

The accompanying report of the Secretary of the Navy presents a full and satisfactory account of the condition and operations of the naval service during the past year. Our citizens engaged in the legitimate pursuit of Commerce, have enjoyed its benefits. Wherever our national vessels have gone, they have been received with respect, our officers have been treated with kindness and courtesy, and they have, on all occasions, pursued a course of strict neutrality, in accordance with the policy of our Government.

The naval force at present in commission is as large as is admissible, with the number of men authorized by Congress to be employed.

I invite your attention to the recommendation of the Secretary of the Navy on the subject of a re-organization of the Navy, in its various grades of officers, and the establishing of a retired list for such of the officers as are disqualified for active and effective service. Should Congress adopt some such measure as is recommended, it will greatly increase the efficiency of the Navy and reduce its expenditures.

I also ask your attention to the views expressed by him in reference to the employment of war-steamers and in regard to the contracts for the transportation of the United States' mails, and the operation of the system upon the prosperity of the Navy.

By an act of Congress passed August 14th, 1848, provision was made for extending post office and mail accommodations to California and Oregon.—Exertions have been made to execute that law; but the limited provisions of the act, the inadequacy of the means it authorizes, the ill adaptation of our post office laws to the situation of that country, and the measure of compensation for services allowed by those laws, compared with the prices of labor and rents in California, render those exertions, in a great degree, ineffectual. More particular and efficient provision by law is required on this subject.

The act of 1845, reducing postage, has now, by its operation during four years, produced results fully showing that the income from such reduced postage is sufficient to sustain the whole expense of the service of the Post Office Department, not including the cost of transportation in mail steamers on the lines from New York to Chagres, and from Panama to Astoria, which have not been considered by Congress as properly belonging to the mail service.

It is submitted to the wisdom of Congress, whether a further reduction of postage should not now be made, more particularly on the letter correspondence. This should be relieved from the unjust burthen of transporting and delivering the franked matter of Congress, for which public service provision should be made from the treasury. I confidently believe that a change may safely be made, reducing all single letter postage to the uniform rate of five cents, regardless of distance, without thereby imposing any greater tax on the treasury than would constitute a very moderate compensation for this public service; and I therefore respectfully recommend such a reduction.

Should Congress prefer to abolish the franking privilege entirely, it seems probable that no demand on the treasury would result from the proposed reduction of postage. Whether any further diminution should now be made, or the result of the reduction to five cents, which I have recommended, should be first tested, is submitted to your decision.

Since the commencement of the last session of Congress, a Postal treaty with Great Britain has been received and ratified, and such regulations have been formed by the Post Office Departments of the two countries, in pursuance of that treaty, as to carry its provisions into full operation.

The attempt to extend this same arrangement through England to France, has not been equally successful, but the purpose has not been abandoned.

For a particular statement of the condition of the Post Office Department, and other matters connected with that branch of the public service, I refer you to the report of the Postmaster General.

By the act of the 3d of March, 1849, a Board was constituted to make arrangements for taking the seventh census, composed of the Secretary of State, the Attorney General, and the Postmaster General; and it was made the duty of this Board "to prepare and cause to be printed such forms and schedules as might be necessary for the full enumeration of the inhabitants of the United States; and also proper forms and schedules for collecting in statistical tables, under proper heads, such information as to mines, agriculture, commerce, manufactures, education and other topics, as would exhibit a full view of the pursuits, industry, education, and resources of the country."

The duties enjoined upon the Census Board, thus established, having been performed, it now rests with Congress to enact a law for carrying into effect the provision of the Constitution which requires an actual enumeration of the people of the United States within the ensuing year.

Among the duties assigned by the Constitution to the General Government is one of local and limited application, but not, on that account, the less obligatory; I allude to the trust committed to Congress, as the exclusive legislator and sole guardian of the interests of the District of Columbia. I beg to commend these interests to your kind attention. As the National metropolis, the city of Washington must be an object of general interest; and, founded as it was, under the auspices of him whose immortal name it bears, its claims to the fostering care of Congress, present themselves with additional strength. Whatever can contribute to its prosperity must enlist the feelings of its Constitutional gaurdians, and command their favorable consideration.

Our Government is one of limited powers, and its successful administration eminently depends on the confinement of each of its co-ordinate branches within its own appropriate sphere. The first section of the Constitution ordains that "all legislative powers therein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives." The Executive has authority to recommend, (not to dictate) measures to Congress. Having performed that duty, the Executive Department of the Government cannot rightfully control the decision of Congress on any subject of legislation, until that decision shall have been officially submitted to the President for approval.

VETO POWER.

The check provided by the Constitution, in the clause conferring the qualified veto, will never be exercised by me, except in the cases contemplated by the fathers of the Republic. I view it as an extreme measure, to be resorted to only in extraordinary cases—as where it may become necessary to defend the Executive against the encroachments of the legislative power, or to prevent hasty and inconsiderate or unconstitutional legislation. By cautiously confining this remedy within the sphere prescribed to it in the contemporaneous expositions of the framers of the Constitution, the will of the people, legitimately expressed on all subjects of legislation, through their constitutional organs, the Senators and Representatives of the United States, will have its full effect.

As indispensable to the preservation of our system of self-government, the independence of the Representatives of the States and the people is guarantied by the Constitution; and they owe no responsibility to any human power but their constituents. By holding the Representative responsible only to the people, and exempting him from all other influences, we elevate the character of the constituent and quicken his sense of responsibility to his country.

It is under these circumstances only that the elector can feel that, in the choice of the lawmaker, he is himself, truly, a component part of the sovereign power of the nation. With equal care we should study to defend the rights of the executive and judicial departments. Our Government can only be preserved in its purity by the suppression and entire elimination of every claim or tendency of one co-ordinate branch to encroachment upon another.

THE UNION.

But attachment to the union of the States should be habitually fostered in every American heart.—For more than half a century, during which kingdoms and empires have fallen, this Union has stood unshaken. The patriots who formed it, have long since descended to the grave; yet still it remains, the proudest monument to their memory, and the object of affection and admiration with every one worthy to bear the American name.

With the strict observance of this rule and other injunctions of the Constitution—with a sedulous inculcation of that respect and love for the Union of the States, which our fathers cherished and enjoined upon their children, and with the aid of that overruling Providence which has so long and so kindly guarded our liberties and institutions, we may reasonably expect to transmit them, with their innumerable blessings, to the remotest posterity.

In my judgment its dissolution would be the greatest of calamities, and to avert that should be the study of every American. Upon its preservation must depend our own happiness, and that of countless generations to come. Whatever dangers may threaten it, I shall stand by it, and maintain it in its integrity, to the full extent of the obligations imposed, and the power conferred upon me by the Constitution.

Z. TAYLOR.

WASHINGTON, December 4th, 1849.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

The American Farm Book,

OR Compend of American Agriculture, being a practical treatise on Soil, Manure, Drainings, Irrigation, Grasses, Grain, Roots, Fruits, Cotton, Tobacco, Sugar-cane, and every staple product of the United States, with the best methods of Planting, Cultivating and Preparation for Market, illustrated by more than 100 Engravings, by R. L. Allen, 1 Vol. 12mo, 325 pages—price $1,00 For sale by J. A. C. BUTTERS, No. 19 State Street. 3t dec29

Domestic Animals.

A History and Description of the Horse, Mule, Cattle, Sheep, Swine, Poultry, and Farm Dogs, with directions for the Management, Breeding, Crossing, Rearing, Feeding and Preparation for a profitable Market. Also,—their Diseases and Remedies, together with full directions for the management of the Dairy, by R. L. Allen, 1 Vol., 12mo, 230 pages—price 75 cts. For sale by J. A. C. BUTTERS, No. 19 State street. 3t dec29

The American Fruit Culturist.

CONTAINING directions for the Propagation and Culture of Fruit Trees, in the Nursery, Orchard and Garden, with directions of the principal American and Foreign Varieties cultivated in the United States, by John J. Thomas, 1 Vol. 12mo, 400 pages—price $1,0. For sale by J. A. C. BUTTERS, No. 19 State Street. 3t dec29

The American Bee Keeper's Manual

BEING a practical treatise on the History and Domestic Economy of the Honey Bee. Embracing a full illustration of the whole subject, with the most approved methods of managing the Insect through every branch of its Culture the result of many years' experience, illustrated by 35 engravings, by T. B. Miner—price $1,00. For sale by J. A. C. BUTTERS, No. 19 State Street. 3t dec29

Notice

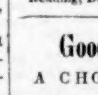
IS hereby given, that the Subscriber has been duly appointed Administrator to the estate of
AMASA LEWIS,
late of Medford, in the County of Middlesex, Yeoman, deceased, intestate, and has taken upon himself that trust by giving bonds, as the law directs. All persons, having demands upon the estate of the said deceased, are required to exhibit the same; and all persons, indebted to the said estate, are called upon to make payment to
GEORGE A. LEWIS, Adm'r.
Malden, Dec. 18, 1849. 3t* dec29

Notice

IS hereby given, that the Subscriber has been duly appointed Administrator to the estate of
EBENEZER NICHOLS,
late of Reading, in the County of Middlesex Yeoman, deceased, intestate, and has taken upon himself that trust by giving bonds, as the law directs. All persons, having demands upon the estate of the said deceased, are required to exhibit the same; and all persons, indebted to the said estate, are called upon to make payment to
EUNICE NICHOLS, Adm'r.
Reading, Dec. 29, 1849. 3t*

Good Chance for a Farmer.

A CHOICE FARM FOR SALE,



Situated in the Easterly part of Petersham, Worcester County, containing between sixty and seventy acres of choice land, with Buildings thereon, well divided into Mowing, Tillage and Pasture. A good Orchard, and Wood and Timber suitable for such a place. It will keep a stock of six Cows, 1 Yoke of Oxen, 1 Horse, and is very easy to cultivate, being in good state of cultivation. It is in one of the best School Districts in the town. The Subscriber wishes to dispose of the same, having made other arrangements by which he is unable to carry it on. Price, Nine Hundred Dollars. Part of which can remain on Mortgage, if desired.

For further particulars, inquire of the Subcriber, JOAB BLANCHARD, in said town, or HYDE & BLANCHARD, Boston. 6w* dec29

Framingham Branch Railroad Co

THE Annual Meeting of said Company will be held on Wednesday, the 16th day of January next, at the Hotel in Framingham Village, at 10 o'clock A. M., for the choice of Directors, and the transaction of such other business as may legally come before them.
Per order RUFUS F. BREWER, Clerk.
Dec 26, 1849. 2w Dec29

Fowl Feeders,

AND Straw Hen's nests for sale at Parker & White's Agricultural Warehouse, No. 10 Gerrish Block, Blackstone street, Boston.
Also, another fine lot of Shanghae Fowls of the "Dixon Stock." dec29

FURNITURE EXCHANGE,
☞ 85 MAIN STREET, 85 ☜
CHARLESTOWN.

NEW and SECOND-HAND FURNITURE of every description constantly on hand and for sale at the lowest prices.

—ALSO—

AN ASSORTMENT OF

Cooking, Parlor and other Stoves,

WOODEN WARE, &C., &C.

J. C. HANCOCK,
dec29 istf 85 Main Street.

Tavern and Store for Sale.

The subscribers offer for sale their Tavern Stand and Store, (if applied for before the first of February next), situated in the centre of the West Parish of Medway, 25 miles from Boston. Two Stages, two Mails and one Express, to and from the city daily, by the Worcester and the Norfolk County Railroad. Said premises have been occupied as above for thirty years; more recently, a Livery Stable has been kept and well supported, and the Store enlarged and fitted to accommodate the W. M. Post Office, where it has been kept for several years last past. Attached to the Tavern, is a good Vegetable Garden and an Orchard of choice Fruit Trees, yielding abundance of Fruit.

Payment for the above, made easy for the purchaser.
JOEL PARTRIDGE,
CHRISTOPHER SLOCOMB.
Medway, Dec 22. 3t*

New Magic Puzzle. Price 25 Cts.

THE New Magic Puzzle, received and for sale by
JAMES MUNROE & CO.,
dec22 134 Washington, opposite School st.

Gift Books for the Holidays.

FOR sale by JAMES MUNROE & CO., a large assortment of Gift Books, English and American editions, beautifully bound and illustrated with the finest engravings.
dec22 134 Washington, opposite School street.

Administrator's Notice.

Middlesex ss. To the Heirs at Law and all others interested in the Estate of Rosanna Parker, late of Marlboro, in said County, widow, deceased, intestate. Greeting.

WHEREAS, Mark Fay, Administrator of the Estate of said deceased, has presented for allowance to the Judge of Probate of said county, the first account of his administration upon the estate of said deceased, and also an account of his claims as a creditor thereof:

You are hereby notified to appear at a Court of Probate, to be holden at Cambridge, in and for said county, on the second Tuesday of January next, to show cause, if any you have, against the allowance of the same.

By order of the Judge of Probate.

Dated at Cambridge, this twentieth day of November, A. D., 1849.
nov24 3t* ISAAC FISKE, Register.

Executor's Notice.

Middlesex, ss. To the Heirs at Law and others interested in the estate of Mary G. Young, late of Reading, in said County, widow, deceased. Greeting.

WHEREAS, a certain instrument, purporting to be the last will and testament of said deceased, has been presented to me for probate, by John Batchelder, the Executor therein named,

You are hereby cited to appear at a Court of Probate, to be holden at Cambridge in said County, on the second Tuesday of January next, to show cause, if any you have, either for or against the same.

And the said John Batchelder is ordered to serve this citation by giving personal notice thereof to all persons interested in said estate, living within twenty miles of said Court, five days, at least, previous thereto, and by publication hereof in the Massachusetts Ploughman, printed in Boston, three weeks successively, the last publication to be three days at least before said Court.

Dated at Cambridge, this eighteenth day of December A. D., 1849.
dec22 3t S. P. P. FAY, J. Prob.

Middlesex ss. To the Heirs at Law and others interested in the estate of Susannah Rice, late of Marlboro', in said County, Singlewoman, deceased. Greeting.

WHEREAS, a certain instrument purporting to be the last will and testament of said deceased, has been presented to me for Probate, by Stephen R. Phelps, the Executor therein named,

You are hereby cited to appear at a Court of Probate to be holden at Cambridge, in said County, on the second Tuesday of January next, to show cause, if any you have, either for or against the same. And the said Stephen R. Phelps, is ordered to serve this Citation by giving personal notice thereof to all persons interested in said estate, living within thirty miles of said Court, seven days at least, previous thereto, and, by publication hereof in the Massachusetts Ploughman, printed in Boston, three weeks successively, the last publication to be three days at least before said Court.

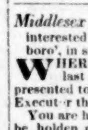
Dated at Cambridge, this eighteenth day of Dec. A. D., 1849.
dec22 3t* S. P. P. FAY, J. Probate.

Administrator's Notice.

NOTICE is hereby given that the Subscriber has been duly appointed Administrator to the Estate of
SEWALL STEARNS,
late of Billerica, in the County of Middlesex, Esquire, deceased, intestate, and has taken upon himself that trust, by giving bonds, as the law directs.

All persons, having demands upon the estate of the said deceased, are required to exhibit the same; and all persons, indebted to the said estate, are called upon to make payment to
OBED STEARNS, Adm'r.
Billerica, Dec. 4, 1849. 3w* dec22

Farm Wanted,



Worth from $3000 to $4000, near some Railroad station, within 50 miles of Boston. Also, one worth $2000, one $3000, and one $4000, in exchange for property in Boston or vicinity.

Also, two worth from $1500 to $2000, for which cash will be paid.

Apply to JOHN MERRILL, 16 Brattle Square, Boston, Real Estate Broker. 3t* dec15

"Only"—"Only a Shilling."

—A—

NEW CHRISTMAS TALE.

"ONLY." By the Author of a "TRAP TO CATCH A SUNBEAM." This day published by JAMES MUNROE & CO., 134 Washington street, where may be found a large assortment of books instructive and entertaining, intended to cultivate the affections, fancy and imagination of children, suitable for Holiday Presents, every day reading, juvenile, family, parish, social and school libraries—at prices so low, that all persons may have a well selected library of "*Books which are Books.*"

WHERE TO GET THEM—of
JAMES MUNROE & CO.,
dec22 134 Washington street.

Lost,

ON the night of Nov. 15th, from the pasture in Milton, two fat Cows and a Heifer. The Cows were 9 or 10 years old, one a light red, the other a chestnut color and marked H on the right rump. The Heifer, a dark red and marked X on the left loin.

Whoever will give information of the same, to JOHN COPELAND, West Bridgewater, shall be suitably rewarded. 4t* dec8

Manure for Sale.

THe Subscribers offer for sale the Manure from their Stable, by the year, commencing Jan. 1st, 1850.

For terms, apply at the Stable, Bromfield Street, Boston.
dec8 4w* STREETER & PARKER.

Valuable Farm for Sale.

WILL be sold at public auction on such day in the month of February or March next, as may be hereafter designated, the farm of the late Captain Salmon Howard, situate mostly in West Bridgewater, but partly in Bridgewater, in the County of Plymouth, containing about 160 acres, on which is a large and commodious dwelling house in good repair, two large barns, with a cellar and pump under one of them, and a large number and great variety of Fruit Trees, now in a bearing condition. There are annually cut thereon about 25 tons of English hay, and about 25 tons of Meadow hay, and in favorable seasons more than 100 bushels of Cranberries may be gathered. There is on said Farm a sufficient quantity of wood and timber, it is well fenced and in a high state of cultivation. It is about half way between Taunton and North Bridgewater, at each of which places a good market is found for its produce, and it may be divided into two farms if desired. The sale of this farm, which is thought by good judges to be the best in the county, will afford a rare opportunity for capitalists to make a safe and profitable investment. The title is good; a deed will be given by the administrator on the estate, and the widow will release her dower therein.

For further information persons wishing to purchase may inquire of Friend W. Howard on the premises, or
NAHUM LEONARD, Administrator.
West Bridgewater. nov3.

Administrator's Notice.

NOTICE is hereby given that the subscriber has been duly appointed Administrator to the goods and estate of
AUSTIN ELLERY,
late of Hopkinton, in the County of Middlesex, Gentleman, deceased, intestate, and has taken upon himself that trust by giving bonds as the law directs. All persons having demands upon the estate of the said deceased, are requested to exhibit the same, and all persons indebted to the said estate, are called upon to make payment to
Hopkinton, Dec. 4, 1849.
dec15 3t SILAS MIRICK, Adm'r

THE POET'S CORNER.

INFANTINE INQUIRIES.

"Tell me, oh, mother! when I grow old,
Will my hair, which my sisters say is gold,
Grow gray as the old man's, weak and poor,
Who asked for alms at our pillared door?
Will I look as sad, will I speak as low
As he, when he told us his tale of woe?
Will my hands then shake and my eyes be dim?
Tell me, oh, mother! will I grow like him?

"He said—but I knew not what he meant—
That his aged heart with sorrow was rent;
He spoke of the grave as a place of rest,
Where the weary sleep in peace and are blest;
And he told how his kindred there were laid,
And the friends with whom in his youth he had played;
And tears from the eyes of the old man fell,
And my sisters wept as they heard his tale!

"He spoke of home, where in childhood's glee
He chased from the wild flowers the singing bee,
And followed afar, with a heart as light
As its sparkling wings, the butterfly's flight,
And pulled young flowers where they grew 'neath the beams
Of the sun's fair light, by its own blue streams;
Yet he left all these through the earth to roam!
Why, oh, mother! did he leave his home?"

"Calm thy young thoughts, my own fair child!
The fancies of youth and age are beguiled;
Tho' pale grow thy cheeks, and thy hair turn gray,
Time cannot steal the youth's soul away!
There's a land of which thou hast heard me speak,
Where age never wrinkles the dweller's cheek;
But in joy they live, fair boy, like thee—
It was there the old man longed to be!

"For he knew that those with whom he had played,
In his heart's young joy, 'neath their cottage shade,
Whose love he shared when their songs and mirth
Brightened the gloom of this sinful earth;
Whose names from our world had passed away,
As flowers in the breath of an autumn day;
He knew that they with their sufferings done,
Encircled the throne of the Holy One!

"Though ours be a pillared and lofty home,
Where want with his pale face may never come,
Oh! scorn not the poor with the scorner's jest,
Who seek in the shade of our hall to rest;
For He who hath made them poor may soon
Darken the sky of our glowing noon,
And leave us with woe in the world's bleak wild—
Oh! soften the griefs of the poor, my child!"

CHRISTMAS THREE CENTURIES AGO.

George Wither, a most enthusiastic old English poet, who lived between two and three centuries ago, has depicted in glowing lines the jollity of Christmas in his day. A few of his genial verses will not be out of place at this time.

"Lo, now is come our joyful'st feast!
Let every man be jolly;—
Each roome with ivie leaves is drest,
And every post with holly.
Though others' purses be more fat,
Why should we pine or grieve at that;
Hang sorrow! care will kill a cat,
And therefore let's be merry!"

Now all our neighbors' chimneys smoke,
And Christmas blocks are burning;
Their ovens they with bak't meats choke,
And all their spits are turning.
Without the door let sorrow lye,
And if, for cold, it hap to die,
We'll bury 't in a Christmas pie,
And evermore be merry!"

LADIES' DEPARTMENT.

THE CAPTIVES.

A TALE OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION.

BY S. D. ANDERSON.

No portion of the infant colonies suffered more from the rude and unsparing hand of war than did the South, and especially the Carolinas. The storm of desolation fell with double fury on those devoted sections of our country, not only from the foreign invaders, seeking to strike down the germ of our liberties, but also from the intestine foes with which she was cursed. This latter kind of warfare was the more to be dreaded, as it fell alike on the old and the young—the blooming youth and the blushing maiden. No condition was permitted to escape. Gray hairs were nothing in the estimation of those fiends in human shape, called Tories. Children were taken from a weeping mother and consigned to a lingering death; beauty was torn from the bridal altar, and innocence from the house of prayer; all the kind and holy feelings of the human heart were given to the winds, and the family hearth, and even the household circle were often made the scene of a brutal death. Such were some of the dangers and difficulties our fathers had to encounter in the struggle for Independence.

A beautiful day, in the spring of 1781, was drawing to a close. The day had been warm, but now the genial breeze of night, so peculiarly pleasing in southern climates, had sprung up. Dim twilight had taken the place of day, the song of the night-bird was beginning to be heard in the wood, the deep-green foliage of the pines looked still deeper in the fast increasing shadows of night, and one by one the stars took their places in the sky. Silence still and deep rested all around; and naught was heard save the occasional hoot of the solitary owl far in the sombre depths of the forest that shaded both sides of the road, (if such the dimly marked path might be called) which led through this section of the wood. The ground was covered with a dense growth of pines and other trees, interlaced with wild vines and smaller shrubbery, so that their shade, even in daylight, excluded from the eye every thing that was removed a few paces from the road-side, but now, as the darkness came down, all was a blank. Suddenly the stillness of the scene was broken by a slight noise, and a solitary horseman emerged from the cover of the wood into the opening. When he had gained the road, he checked his horse, and carefully examined the vicinity, as if to satisfy himself of the safeness of his position, as well as to mark the locality of the spot. This caution seemed to proceed as much from a settled habit of watchfulness, common in days of peril, as from a sense of personal danger. In appearance the stranger seemed not to have arrived at the full age of manhood. He was clad in a hunting-frock of blue domestic, common in those days among the inhabitants of the Southern States. The style and finish of the dress, however, bespoke more than usual attention to the fitness of the articles. Around his waist was girded a broad leather belt, embellished in front with a massive buckle, and underneath this might have been seen, almost concealed by the folds of his cloak, a pair of pistols, such as were used by the horsemen of that day. His pantaloons were of the same materials as his coat, and on his head he wore a hat that differed from that of a common citizen of the times, only in the additional ornament of a small cockade, worn on the left side near the top. This, with a pair of boots made of untanned leather, and armed with rude spurs, made up the costume of the new comer. In stature he was rather over the usual standard, but not so much so as to take from his figure its appearance of grace and activity. His features were large and manly, and his complexion, though darkened by exposure to the burning rays of the southern sun, still showed the tinge of blood upon the cheek. His eyes were dark and piercing, and a profusion of black and curling hair covered a finely-shaped head. In the whole appearance and bearing of the individual could be read the love of the daring and adventurous, shared in common with the noble and chivalrous sons of the South in those days of peril and danger.

After he seemed to have been satisfied of the absence of any intruder, he advanced a short distance up the path we have mentioned, until he gained a place where the underwood was still more dense and impenetrable. It was a small ravine, made by a rivulet in the wet seasons, but at this time was dry. There the branches of the trees interlaced and formed a natural retreat, so dense as to preclude its being reached with any chance of success. When immediately in front of this, he raised his hands to his mouth and produced a sound so nearly resembling the cry of the wood-owl, that a person who was not very familiar with the singular note of this bird must have been mistaken. It was immediately repeated from the ravine, and in a short time a second person made his egress from the leafy ambush. The appearance of the new comer differed in all respects from that of the first. He was a modern Hercules in frame and figure, and bore the marks of long and severe service in sun and storm. But he was dressed much after the fashion of his companion, though the materials were of a coarser kind and boasted no ornaments. He wore on his head a cap made of the skin of a fox. His arms were the usual brace of pistols, but in addition he bore in his hand a short rifle, and slung from his broad shoulder was the powder-horn and bullet-pouch of the forest ranger. In his face could be seen the marks of the frontier life—good-nature and courage—a man to trust in danger—a friend when most needed. He advanced with slow and cautious steps until he gained the edge of the wood, and then raising his rifle into a position for immediate use, he breathed in a faint but distinct voice "Hawks." He waited a moment, and then the voice of the stranger repeated, "*They fly.*" "*All's right,*" was the glad answer from the forester, and breaking from the thicket, he seized the hand of the horseman with a nerve and energy that made the blood tingle to the ends of the fingers.

"Well, Harry, what of the cavalcade!" asked the younger of the men, in a voice that bespoke the excitement under which he was laboring. "Have they passed? How many of them were there?"

"Oh, a score or more of the villains," answered the other, in a bold, free voice, "and young Wilson and his sister in the midst. They seemed particularly choice of him, as he was lashed to one of the largest of the gang; but what is to be done—have you seen the captain?"

"No," replied the other, in an excited manner, "he has not returned from the Santee. If the captain was but here, we would soon teach these renegades better manners than to fire and kill at pleasure; and the sister, too—was not the brother enough!"

There was something in the voice and manner of the speaker when he alluded to the capture of this couple, that told a tale of the feelings, plainer, perhaps, than he would have wished, if he had been in other company than that in which he was. When he again spoke, however, he was more calm and collected. Addressing himself with confidence to his companion, he said,

"Harry, what would you advise? You have had more experience in this mode of life than I, and this is an occasion which calls for all our energies."

A look of honest pride stole over the face of the forester at this marked display of the confidence of his superior in rank; but it was only for a moment, and then the old expression of caution and determination again resumed its place. After a pause, in which he seemed to be debating in his mind the better way of serving the wish of the other, he appeared to have hit upon the plan, and advancing still nearer to his companion to prevent the posibility of being overheard, he said, in a low whisper,

"You must go back to the camp and raise the men, I will follow in the trail of the party; they must have taken the lower route, as the late defeat of the Tories in the north would make the other unsafe. If I fail I will meet you at the Big Pine—you will take that road—they cannot get farther than the Cypress Swamp to-night—I will be there."

This arrangement seemed to meet the views of the other, as he made no objections to it, but after some minor matters had been disposed of, the two prepared to separate. Shaking his companion heartily by the hand, the younger of the friends struck into the forest in the same direction as that from which we saw him emerge. The other gazed after him until he became lost in the darkness of the shadows, and then striking into the wood in the opposite direction, he proceeded for some distance with hasty steps, until he gained a spot more densely shaded than usual. Parting the branches, he entered the enclosure, and in a few moments came forth leading a horse, which he immediately mounted, and plunged more deeply into the wood. Leaving our two friends to the fulfilment of their tasks, we must give the reader some account of the circumstances that preceded their introduction to us.

William Seaton, the hero of our narrative, was the only child of one of the oldest families in the South. At the breaking out of the war of the Revolution, his father took a firm and decided stand in the defence of the rights of the Colonists, and sealed that defence with his blood. He fell at the Siege of Charleston, bequeathing to his son the care of a mother. With the same bold and fearless love of his native land that distinguished his sire, young Seaton, on the receipt of this intelligence, hastened home from the little band of men to which he belonged, and bearing his mother to a place of safety, hurried to rejoin his comrades again. He had joined that band, by the consent of his patriot father at the outbreaking of the war, though then but a stripling, and had acted with them in all those prominent events that has rendered them so famous in the annals of freedom.

Attached to the same company as Seaton, was a young man named Wilson, like him a volunteer in the cause of liberty; and both being in the spring of youth and promise, they became mutually attached. The hours not devoted to labor were spent in the society of each other.—In one of the many changes that the fate of war made in the position of this band of patriots, they encamped in the vicinity of Wilson's father, and now, when the duties of the camp did not call for the attendance of our friends, the snatches of time were spent at the paternal residence.—George Wilson's father was far advanced in the vale of years, and consequently remained neutral, as far as action went, in the excitements of the day. But still his heart was with the Colonists in the unequal struggle for their rights. The chief attraction for Seaton, however, was Emma Wilson, the sister of George; and she was well worthy a soldier's admiration and love. She was a soldier's sister, full of noble daring, and untameable spirit. At each visit Seaton lingered longer and longer. Each glance of his eye was full of meaning, and told more truly to Emma, than words, the conquest she had made. Seaton feared to offer the hand of a nameless soldier to the sister of his high-souled friend, though that hand had been raised at the altar of liberty.—But he was poor, his father had perilled his all in the cause of his country, and it had been wrested from him; and now his son had nothing, save his sword and the consciousness of rectitude.—But that could not prevent the growth of the passion in the breast of young Seaton; and how often would he think he saw in the hesitation and blushes of Emma, when he requested her to sing his favorite songs, something on which to build a lover's hopes; and this, though slight, would raise into a flame the fire of his affections.

Thus stood matters, when, one evening, Seaton started to visit the Wilsons, George having been absent some days on account of the illness of his father. It was some distance from the camp, and as he was in the dreaming mood, he suffered his horse to proceed at a slow pace, and gave full vent to his fancy. From this trance he was aroused by a slight noise, and raising his eyes, he beheld (for a turn of the path brought him within view of it) the mansion of the Wilsons in flames. Putting spurs to his steed he soon arrived at the spot. Here all was desolation and ruin. The truth flashed upon him. It was the work of the Tories. But what had become of the inmates? Had they fallen victims, or had they been made captives? No one was visible to solve the question. But no time was to be lost, and after a hasty survey of the vicinity, he started in the direction of the camp to report the affair and procure assistance for the prisoners. On the return he fell in with one of the scouts, and making known the affair to him, it was determined to fall upon the trail of the party, if possible to watch them until they should encamp, and then the scout, by superior knowledge of the windings of the forest, must return to the camp and ensure the surprise and capture of the foe. Acting on this, and knowing that the captain was at this time on his way from the Santee with a body of recruits, Seaton chose the route most likely to fall in with him, to whom he would communicate the intelligence and obtain assistance. Giving his instructions to his companion to await him at the Crossings, he gave the rein to his horse and dashed into the wood.—With the result of this meeting the reader is already acquainted in the conversation between the two at the commencement of the story. Buried in the gloom of the ravine, Harry Burton saw the prisoners pass, guarded by a strong band of the Tories. Marking their direction, he had in quiet awaited the coming of his comrade.

Our business now is with the scout. After he parted from his companion, he left the main route, and striking deeper into the forest, pursued his way for some time with as much rapidity as the nature of the ground would admit of, appearing to be guided more by instinct than reason, so well did he, amid the darkness of the dense wood, find out the different pathways and crossing of the forest. After continuing his unbroken course for some time, he turned again in the direction of the main path. Falling into the stream of a small rivulet that ran in that direction, he followed it up, as if to prevent any marks of his horse's feet being seen in the coming light, if he should not succeed in his enterprise. Silently and steadily did he ride on until he gained a bend in the stream, where he dismounted, and leaving his animal in the deep shade of the trees, continuously advanced to the edge of the pathway, and bent his gaze long and earnestly along the road.—Satisfied of the absence of any hostile party, he emerged into the clearing, and commenced a careful survey of the path, with as much accuracy as the faint beams of a partially risen moon would permit. Long and anxious was the labor, and not till he was satisfied of the recent passing of a band of mounted men did it cease. Once confident of this, he again mounted, and pressed on with renewed vigor, still keeping hid in the shade, though not at so great a distance as before. Continuing his course for some time, he gained the top of a hill, and here, for the first time since the passing of the band at the Crossings, he again gained sight of the captives. Halting, that the distance between them might be increased, and thus the danger of discovery lessened, he had a full opportunity to observe them.—No material change had taken place in the aspect of the party since he last saw them, save that the bonds of the female had been unloosed, and she was suffered to ride between two of the band.—Her brother was still bound, and her horse fastened to that of one of the escort. The only circumstance that struck the quick sight and sense of the scout was the want of that caution and discipline that betokens the consciousness of danger.

Taking advantage of this want of prudence on the part of his enemies, the active mind of the scout suggested the bold expedient of pushing into the front of the party, and by secreting himself in the dense foliage that skirted both sides of the road, gather, if possible, from the lips of the Tories, some hints of their designs. Without waiting to calculate the danger of the undertaking, he again took to the forest, and putting his steed into a swifter pace, made a circuit of some distance to avoid the most remote possibility of being seen. Having again gained the road-side, he took a position more favorable for his purpose. He did not wait long ere the foremost of the band came in sight. When sufficiently near, Harry recognized him as one of the most active and unprincipled of the men who had long been a terror and dread to that vicinity. He had been an unsuccessful suitor for the hand of Emma Wilson; and this, joined to his unrelenting hatred of the Whigs, made the object of the recent attack apparent to the scout. He was attended by several others of the same character—some actuated motives of personal malice, and others by the love of plunder. The leader appeared in earnest conversation with those who rode near him; and, as they neared the place where the scout was concealed, the words of some of them reached his ear. They were directed to the captain of the band, and were spoken as if in continuation of a question.

"But what do you intend doing with the brother? He fought well, no matter what else he has done, and deserves a better fate than I fear you intend for him."

"He shall have the same fate as his father—death. The one fell by this hand, by the sword it is true; his son shall die by the rope. I'll teach them to refuse me. One more, and then my vengeance is complete. That young lover of hers, Seaton!—but he cannot escape me; we have traced the band that he belongs to, and in a few days he too will be mine. But how stands my modest beauty?" he asked of one of the gang who just rode up from the rear. "She shall have a merry ride to-night, and in the morning—"

"She has fainted from fatigue, and cannot ride farther," interrupted the other; "what must be done? As there is no danger from pursuit now, I think we had better halt for the night. The Cypress is nigh, and that will be the safest place between here and the Corners. Besides, the captain, as they call him, is in the south now. So no fear of him."

"I do not fear him," answered the leader: and then after a pause of a few moments he resumed—"Well, give the command to encamp at the swamp. In the morning we will see what is to be done."

Saying this, he relapsed into silence, and the other fell back on the rear to give the orders for the night. Harry waited until the last of the band had passed his place of concealment, and faded from sight in the direction of the proposed stopping-place for the night; and then, as if satisfied with the result of his plan, he again took the backward trail to wait at the appointed place young Seaton, and his band, if he should succeed in raising them.

Morning broke upon the forest with unusual freshness and beauty. The dew sparkled on the young grass—the birds caroled sweetly from the trees—the streamlet went leaping on its way in gladness, and sending its music out into the sunny air as if the spirit of rejoicing sat upon its tiny waves. It was yet early morning when our scene opens in the camp of the outlaws. Here all was bustle and excitement. Men could be seen gathered in groups in low conversation, as if some event of more than usual interest was about to take place. In the centre of the encampment could be seen two persons we have heretofore described. They were seated some distance apart; the brother being fastened to a tree in a sitting posture, with his hands confined to his side, while the sister was suffered to remain unbound, but subject to a strict guard. He was already doomed to death, and that the shameful one of the gibbet. Bitter was the pang at being cut off in the bloom of life, when the road to fame was open to his view, and when his suffering and bleeding country called aloud on all her sons for aid in this desperate contest. Still this was nothing for him. But then his sister, and that sister the witness of a father's murder, was now a captive, and at the mercy of that father's murderer—this made the doom doubly bitter. And there at his side sat that sister mute and tearless, for the dreadful scenes through which she had passed seemed to have shut up the fountains of her grief, while he who should have been her protector was now helpless as herself.

These were the thoughts that were coursing through his mind when the leader of the band approached the spot where he was confined. If ever vice and malignity had chosen a resting-place, the face of that man was their home; and now as he gazed upon the consummation of all his long-cherished plans of lust and vengeance, the time for which he had hoarded up the passion of years, his look assumed the aspect of a demon. Calmly he gazed upon the captives, as preparing himself for the outbreak, and then advancing still nearer, he said—

"Do you accept my proposals, or must I compel you to that you cannot now avoid?" This was addressed to Emma Wilson. "Accept this hand, and your brother lives; refuse me, and he dies upon the tree before an hour."

What answer Emma would have given is unknown, as at this moment her brother caught the question, and turning to the ruffian, he answered:

"No, Emma, murderer as he is, he dare not do this; and if death must come, it would be nothing compared to the union with a wretch like this."

But then as the helpless condition of that sister, already in the power of this man, and as the desperate and lawless character of the band, all pressed upon the mind of the brother, he sunk his voice to a whisper, and said, as the tears came gushing into his eyes—

"Man, man, if you have the commonest feelings of humanity, I implore you do not harm my sister. Do with me as you like—give me to the fire, or the tree—but spare a brother the agonizing thought of a sister's shame."

A bitter smile passed over the face of the outcast as he saw the agony of his prisoner—a smile that spoke of triumph and revenge—but it was only for a moment, and when he again spoke, his voice was calm and resolute.

"And does the high-spirited and haughty blood of the Wilson's deign to supplicate me! Me! the outcast they once spurned. To what am I indebted for this favor! But no!" and sinking his voice into that of a person fearful of his own passions, he proceeded, "I offer her this hand—if she accept it you are free, if not, you die—not the death of a man, but the death of a dog. And still she shall be mine."

For the first time since the captain of the gang had made his appearance, Emma raised her eyes to those of her brother. She heard the determination of the ruffian, and knew from his previous acts that to will and to do was the same with him. Nerving herself, therefore, for the contest, she said:

"Do your worst—I never will be yours. Your hand struck down my gray-haired father when he knelt to you, and your hand raised the torch to the family roof-tree, and sent us, homeless orphans, out upon the world. It can but be death, and that is paradise compared to a life with you." And then turning to her brother, she continued—"George, I would do all to save you but dishonor myself and our spotless name—that I cannot do—forgive me—that is a sister's resolve."

"Bless you, Emma, for those words—now I can die." And sinking his voice, he continued—"But there still may be hope—our men cannot be far off, and if Seaton did but know of this." The paleness of his sister's cheek told George he had touched a tender chord, and hastening to redress the wound he had inflicted, he said—"I do not entirely despair, if I could but gain a few hours; the captain is still in the field, and there is still hope."

The leader had now left them, and the brother and sister now talked of the past, and Emma's heart was fast telling her, as the name of Seaton was mentioned, that she had long and fondly loved him. But this reverie was interrupted by the return of the outlaw, who had been talking with some of his band. Advancing still closer to Emma, he said:

"Have you decided—the time has come, and I am in no mood for trifling—remember, this is the last chance for your brother's life."

"I remember," replied Emma, "and I have decided—for death—both of us, for I survive not him." And drawing a small knife from her bosom, she said—"Now leave us."

"'Tis well—you will find me no sluggard in the fulfilment of my promises," said the other, his voice hoarse with suppressed passion. "Here, guard, hang this rebel to the nearest tree; we will find if his high-bred sister can act as well as talk."

Obedient to their leader's command, the outlaws seized upon the prisoner and leading him to a little distance from the spot, where his sister sat, commenced the horrid preparations of his death. Shading her eyes with her hands, Emma sat mute and motionless, the picture of despair. In hast the fated noose was made and fastened around the neck of the captive, and now all was ready. Again did the heartless villain urge the sister to accept the offer of his hand, but this time in mere mockery; but the words of her brother, as he blessed her for the resolve, came to her and she sat mute. Stung by this display of courage, the ruffian now gave the word for the completion of the execution.

The cord had been run over the limb of the tree, and two of the band waited the signal for the captain. Around had congregated the gang to witness the proceeding. All was stillness. The spot was wild and lonely—a single open amid the dense swamp that on every hand spread its curtain of foliage, so that the eye could not reach but a small distance into the environs of the encampment. And there stood that brother. He had taken the last view of nature—the last farewell of his sister—the last thought of his country—and now, he stood firm and collected. And near him was the leader of the band, a glare of triump lighting up his eyes as he saw the end of all approaching. Gazing upon his victim's face for a moment, he said—

"George Wilson, you once despised me and rejected my friendship. I loved your sister—you thwarted me in that love, now I am your captor, ask no mercy—I will grant none."

"Wretch!" replied Wilson, "I despise alike your friendship and your mercy. Talk not of love. Such a villain cannot feel the passion; but think not to escape for this deed, the band to which I belong will not let my blood be spilt in vain. You tremble at the name—well you may—it will be a curse on your path, and you will pay a heavy penalty for this day's work."

"No more of this ranting," interrupted the outlaw. "Think not to fright me from my purpose. Marion himself could not do that. Ha! ha!—who conquers now!"

As he finished, he raised his bugle to his lips and blew a shrill blast—the signal for the execution. The blast was repeated from the wood, and the last note had not died upon the ear, when breaking from the thickness came the band of Marion. Had the trump of the Archangel sounded, it could not have struck greater consternation into the gang, who stood paralysed, mute and lifeless as statues. A moment after came the crash of a hundred rifles, carrying death and dismay into the ranks of the Tories, followed by the sabres and pistols of the men, and the iron heels of the horses. Escape was impossible. Surrounded on all sides, and struck with terror at this unthought of rescue, the ruffians made no resistance, but fled. Dashing into the midst of the scene, the rescuers, with young Seaton at their head, soon made a clear field. Giving orders to capture the few remaining Tories, he dismounted and cut the band that confined his friend, who until this time seemed unconscious of what was acting around. But as he saw the face of his companion, and recollected other familiar comrades, he awoke, and seizing the hand of his friend, pressed it in silence.

When the first moment of surprise was over Seaton asked the fate of Emma, in a tone and manner that told how much of his happiness was centered there. Her brother pointed to where he had left her, and there she lay upon the green sod, for she had fainted amid the noise and tumult of the last few moments. To fly to her and raise her up—to clasp those soft hands, and sprinkle the pure brow with water, was the work of a moment for Seaton, and as she recovered and rested her head upon his bosom, to tell her she was safe, and that her brother was safe, was a sweet task; and then to hear from those lips the throbs of a guileless heart, and to read in those bright eyes more than a maiden's modesty would tell, was a sweet recompense for Seaton. And now the brother and sister were united, and Seaton left them to complete the victory. He saw the day had been won, as one by one his men returned, bringing with them the bare remnants of the gang. On the ground he discovered the scout engaged in searching for the body of the leader. It was found, still holding in his hand the trumpet, as he had held it when the death-shot had struck him. Giving his orders to the scout, Seaton made instant preparations for departure. The lover rode by the side of Wilson and his sister, and from them he heard all the occurrences of the last few hours. After a ride of some length they reached the camp in safety, and the next day Emma Wilson was placed under the charge of some friends remote from the scene of war; but not until she heard from the lips of Seaton the confession of his love, and he received in return the assurances of her affection.

The conclusion is soon told. After Seaton left the scout, he repaired to the camp, and as Marion had not arrived, he assumed the command of the band, and led them to the place agreed upon by him and the scout. Here he fell in with Harry who was waiting for them, and he led them to the Tories encampment, where they arrived just in time to thwart the designs of the outlaws.

Seaton and Wilson continued to serve with Marion until the close of the war. Both were in most of those daring and successful enterprises which so distinguished that gallant officer. Harry also served out the war in the capacity of scout, one of the most dangerous, as well as useful posts in the army. After the close of the war Seaton pressed his suit with Emma, and she again became a captive, though this time the chains were garlanded with flowers. They rebuilt the old family mansion, near which they erected a moment to the memory of Emma's father, and with her brother, who still continued a bachelor, they made their residence there. Harry had his home there, and in the long winter nights would tell to the children the story of "THE CAPTIVES." [Graham's Magazine.

OUR NAVAL POWER.

BY MAJOR NOAH.

The London Times says that, considering the vigilance with which the Americans have maintained the general effectiveness of their navy, it seems singular that they should have taken no particular pains to augment it, although remarkably attentive to armaments and dock yards. There never has been, at any period, a desire on the part of our people to increase the navy to any extent beyond what was necessary to protect the interest of commerce in various parts of the world. What have the six hundred and forty-six ships of war achieved for England? A heavy national debt, the title of "mistress of the seas," and a never-failing desire for war and glory. But we have a substitute worth more, and in fact more potent, than all the navy of England, and that is our private armed marine. In the event of war, more than five hundred swift sailing privateers will scour the ocean in every direction. Every large steamship, and every packet of one hundred tons will have an armanent. There will be no navy in the world equal to it; but as such an armanent could only grow out of the contingency of war, there is no necessity to expend a dollar in anticipation of such an issue.

We are probably the most remarkable people on earth for promptness and preparation for war after it exists. A valuable corps of two hundred thousand men, armed, equipped, and disciplined, can be ready for the field in thirty days after war is declared, and so it may be said of ships of war. We will state one fact illustrative of this position. During the war with England, and while stationed on the Barbary Coast, we were surprised one day, while exploring the ruins of Carthage, to see a sharp clipper-built schooner under full sail, with the American flag floating to a brisk breeze, doubling Cape Bon, and making direct for the bay. We rode down to the fortress of Goletta, ordered a launch to be made ready, and found ourselves alongside the schooner just as she had cast anchor.

"Where are you from, sir?"

"From Boston," replied the captain, a smart dashing looking young fellow.

"In what passage?"

"Twenty-three days, sir."

We began to have our misgivings. Twenty-three days from Boston! We suspected she had been fitted out at Marseillis to cruise in the Mediterranean. It was the Abeleno, Captain Wyer, of six guns and seventy-five men—a magnificent little craft. We went down into the trunk cabin.

"Now, sir," said the captain, "I'll convince you that we are from Boston, and will show you Boston notions of every kind, from pumpkins and smoked herring down to wooden nutmegs." He soon filled the table with all the good cheer and solid comforts with which the Bostonians know so well how to furnish a ship. "And here," said he, "is the Boston Centinel, Major Russell's paper." All doubts were now at an end; and while we had been partaking of fair to which we had long been accustomed—homely fair, but more welcome on that account—the captain said:

"If you are surprised at our short passage so far up the Mediterranean, what will you say when I tell you it is just sixty days since the keel of this vessel was laid in Boston: yet here we are!" We could scarcely credit it.

"Nay, that's not all, sir," continued Captain Wyer. "On my way here, off Cagliari, I captured two large British ships filled with valuable cargoes, and ordered them for this port. They will be here to-morrow morning."

"What! in a neutral port, in which the British exercise unlimited influence! They will never permit us to sell the cargoes."

"Well, sir, we can only try."

Sure enough, next morning early, the ancient city of Tunis, honored once by the presence of Scipio Africanus, Hannibal, and other distinguished personages known to history, was thrown into the greatest commotion on seeing two large and deeply laden ships entering the port, the stars and stripes floating over the union jack. It startled the British Consul and all the *corps diplomatique*, and we soon saw the whole bevy on horseback making for the palace.

"I smell sulphur," said the captain. "There's a storm brewing, and we shall have it soon."

In an hour a messenger arrived by a mameluke that we were wanted at the palace. After making our toilette, Sidi Ambrosio, our chancellor, and Mustapha, the dragoman, were soon mounted, and off we paced at a moderate rate for Bardo. The consular corps were all present when we entered the *salla*. The Bey, reclining as usual on his large crimson cushion, was busily engaged in combing his long black beard with a tortoise-shell comb studded with brilliants, and looking unusually grave.

"What does all this mean, Consul—two British prizes entering our port, and for what purpose?"

"To sell them, your highness?"

"What! against our treaty with England?"

"Certainly not, if there is such a prohibition in the treaty."

The British Consul, a most excellent man, unrolled the parchment, to which a seal of wax was appended nearly as large as one of our Western cheeses, and commenced reading as follows:

"It is further stipulated, and agreed upon that no European power at war with England shall be permitted to fit out privateers or other armed vessels to cruise against the commerce of Great Britain from, or bring prizes into, the Tunisian ports."

"Well, sir," said the Bey, "what have you to say to that? Is it not full and conclusive?"

"Entirely so; but it does not apply to us. We are not an European power."

"That, sir," said the British Consul, "is a mere evasion of the spirit of this section of our treaty. It was intended to apply, and does apply to all Christian powers."

"Very probably, sir; but we are not a Christian power?" The whole court looked amazed. The Bey raised himself up from his cushions, took a hearty pinch of snuff from a splendid diamond box, and gave us an anxious and inquiring look.

"How will you make that appear, sir?" said the British Consul.

"Very easily, sir." We then read the following section from our treaty with Tripoli:

"As the United States is in no manner a Christian Government, and entertains no hostility towards any denomination; it is hereby understood that no disturbance shall arise between the two powers on any religious question."

It was useless to argue the point further. We did not in any shape come within the purview of that treaty, so permission was given to land the goods; and the ships and cargoes, consisting of every variety of merchandize, were sold in a single day. The Consul sent for a British blockading squadron from Malta; but the privateer slipped out of the bay, ran up the Archipelago, destroyed nearly two millions of British property, was chased round the Mediterranean by two ships of-the-line and two frigates, escaped through the Gut of Gibralter, and arrived home safely

The commerce of any power would, by this private marine, be utterly destroyed in a war with the United States; and all the navy of Great Britain could not blockade ports so as to prevent privateers from escaping. We should find them on the Atlantic, the Pacific, and the Indian Oceans, the Baltic and Mediterranean. They would be everywhere.

VICISSITUDES OF MERCANTILE LIFE.

From an article in Hunt's Magazine we copy the following interesting statements. They afford a melancholy illustration of mercantile life:

"It is asserted that but one eminent merchant (and his death is still recent and lamented) has ever continued in active business in the city of New York, to the close of a long life, without undergoing bankruptcy, or a suspension of payments, in some one of the various crises through which the country has necessarily passed. I have no means of determining the truth of this assertion, but it must have some foundation, and I think it would be difficult for either of us to add to the number.

It is also asserted, by reliable authority, from records kept during periods of twenty to forty years, that, of every hundred persons who commence business in Boston, ninety-five at least, die poor; that, of the same number in New York, not two ultimately acquire wealth, after passing through the intermediate process of bankruptcy: while in Philadelphia the proportion is still smaller.

By the statistics of bankruptcy, as collected under the uniform bankrupt law of 1841.

The number of applicants for relief under that law were	33,789
The number of creditors returned	1,049,603
The amounts of debts stated	440,034,615
The valuation of property surrendered	43,697,307

If this valuation were correct, nearly ten cents would have been paid on every dollar due; but what was the fact?

In the southern district of New York one cent was paid, on an average, for each dollar due; in the northern district, 12 2-3 cents being by far the largest dividend. In Connecticut the average dividend was somewhat over half a cent on each dollar.

In Mississippi it was	6 cents to $1,000
In Maine	1 " 100
In Michigan and Iowa	1 " 100
In Massachusetts	4 " 100
In New Jersey	1 " 100
In Tennessee	4½ " 10
In Maryland	1 dollar to 100
In Kentucky	8 " 1000
In Illinois	1 " 1,500
In Pennsylvania, East Virginia, South Alabama, Washington,	Nothing

After making every possible allowance for the enhancement of this enormous amount of debt by inflation of values, speculative prices, &c., the proportion of the $400,000,000 lost by those of the 1,049,603 creditors who were engaged in proper and legitimate business, must still have been immense, and may justly be charged against the profits of our regular commerce.

OPENING OF THE RUTLAND AND BURLINGTON RAILROAD. This important link in the chain of railroad communication between Boston and Lake Chaplain, was opened to public travel through its entire length, for the first time, on Tuesday. This work has been prosecuted with a vigor, true economy and success, which do real credit to its originators, its friends, and its constructors. It has been built during a period in which the financial condition of the community was certainly not favorable for so great an enterprise; in the face of very considerable opposition; over ground which many who thought themselves well advised considered impassable by a railway, and yet in about the time, and at about the expense, indicated in the very moderate estimates upon which the original location was founded and the work was commenced. We do not speak of it as one of such intrinsic physical difficulties as have been presented by some other enterprises of the same sort which have been successful, or even by some other parts of the same line of communication to the west; but it is remarkable for the promptitude, skill, and cheapness with which it has been executed. The reader will see, that when a road of nearly 120 miles in length, with a rising grade of 1200 feet—necessarily averaging in one place, for seven miles, a grade of sixty feet to the mile—has been completed in less than three years, at about the original estimates, and at an average cost, including proper fixtures, stations, and road furniture and apparatus, of less than $25,000 per mile, all these qualities must have been exhibited.

The work of laying the rails was commenced at the end of May of this year, and the first passenger train passed over the whole length on the 18th inst. In the interval, sections on each side of the summit, from Bellows Falls on one side, and from Burlington on the other, have been from time to time brought into public use.

Such a result reflects much credit upon the managers of the Road, among whom one of the most active has been Judge Follett of Burlington, and also upon the judicious and perseveiing Chief Engineer, Mr. Gilbert.

The opening of this Road was not made the occasion of a very general "mass meeting" of those interested. A number of gentlemen, however, including officers of other Roads connected with the line, Lieut. Gov. Pierpont of Vermont, Judge Williams, late Chief Justice of that State, and many friends of the Road from all parts of Vermont, were invited to witness the first passage of a locomotive across Mount Holly.

The party from Boston left this city in the regular train of the Fitchburg and Cheshire Railroads, at half-past seven on Tuesday morning, and, passing over the "Fitchburg," a part of the Vermont and Massachusetts," and the Cheshire rail roads, arrived at Bellows Falls about noon. After greetings with the guests collected here, the train proceeded upon the road which was to celebrate its first birthday, at the same time with the marriage between the waters of Lake Chaplain and those of Massachusetts Bay. This road, leaving the Connecticut at Bellows Falls—about thirty miles north of the Massachusetts line—passes in a north-westerly direction, following to some extent to Williams river and the head waters of Black river,—tributaries of the Connecticut, to Ludlow, a distance of about thirty miles. It here attacks the base of the Green Mountain ridge, which separates the waters of the Connecticut from those of the Hudson and of Lake Chaplain. After scaling this height by a series of heavy grades, rapid curves, and many admirable struggles of art against opposing nature,—with a general course nearly west for some ten miles, it passes to Rutland, whence, for about eighty miles, it follows the beautiful Otter Creek Valley to Lake Chaplain.

The chief ceremonies and congratulations of the day were concentrated on the time when the summit of Mount Holly, the chief physical obstacle to the work, and the one last overcome, was reached by the ascending train. Here the parties from Burlington and from Boston met, and a crowd of enthusiastic friends of the enterprise, from the east and west, and from the whole connecting line, exchanged hearty greetings, amid loud cheers and a salute of cannon. Brief speeches were made by Nathan Rice, Esq., of Boston—one of the directors, an early and staunch supporter of the line—on behalf of its Eastern forwarders, stockholders and well-wishers, and by Judge Follett, the President, on behalf of those at the West, in token of the new union, which we have already characterized, in the words of one of the speakers, as the "marriage of Lake Chaplain with the Atlantic," the two gentlemen opened each a jar, one of salt water from Boston bay, and one of fresh water from the lake, and, pouring out the contents, mingled them as they fell. Cheers were heartily given for the two gentlemen whom we have just named, and for the chief engineer of the work. Another round was appropriately devoted to the stalwart laborers, many of whom stood around, evidently delighted with the successful results of their exertions. Gen. Clark, of Burlington, editor of the Free Press, gave an appropriate sentiment, giving due honor to the constructors of the work, and alluding to the highly important results likely to accrue from it to each of the sections of the country which it connects; and when this was honored with due applause, the company returned to the cars, to reach Burlington soon after nightfall.

The whole day passed off most harmoniously and agreeably. We regret not to have space now to enlarge on the important interests brought into being by the completion of this great line of water communication, which, although of course not now for the first time considered, deserve more than a passing notice. [Advertiser.

GRAND BANQUET TO THE POTATO.

That highly respected vegetable, the Potato, being now, it is hoped, thoroughly re-established in health, it was determined by a few members of the Vegetable Kingdom to offer a banquet to the worthy and convalescent root on his happy recovery. The arrangements for the dinner were on a scale of great liberality, and the guests included all the principal vegetables. The invitations had been carried out by an efficient *corps* of Scarlet Runners, and the Onion occupied the chair. He was supported on his right by the head of the Asparagus family, while Salad occupied a bowl at the other end of the table, and was dressed in his usual manner The Potato, though just out of his bed, was looking remarkably well, and wore his jacket, there being nothing to mark his recent illness, except perhaps a little apparent blackness round one of his eyes. After the cloth had been removed.

The Onion got up to propose as a toast, "The Potato, their much-respected guest." (*Immense cheering.*) He, the Onion, had known the Potato from infancy; and, though they had not always been associated in life, they had frequently met at the same table. They had sometimes braved together the same broils, and had found themselves often together in such a stew (*he alluded to the Irish stew*) as had brought them, for the time being, into a alliance of the very closest kind. He, the Onion, was delighted to see the Potato once more restored to his place in society, for he, the Onion, could say, without flattery, that society had endeavored to supply the place of the Potato in vain. (*Hear, hear.*) They had heard of Rice having been suggested to take the place of his honorable friend, but the suggestion was ridiculous. *Risum teneatis, amici*, was all that he, the Onion, had to say to that. (*Loud laughter in which all but the Melon joined.*) He, the Onion, would "not detain them longer, but would conclude by proposing health, long life, and prosperity to the Potato."

The toast was received with enthusiasm by all but the Cucumber, whose coolness seemed to excite much disgust among his brother vegetables. The Onion had, in fact, affected many of those present to tears, and the Celery, who sat next to the Horseradish, hung down his head in an agony of sensibility. When the cheering had partially subsided, the Potato rose, but that was only a signal for renewed enthusiasm; and it was some minutes before silence was restored. At length the Potato proceeded nearly as follows:—

"Friends and fellow-vegetables: It is with difficulty I express the feeling with which I have come here to-day. Having suffered for the last three or four years from a grievous disease, which seemed to threaten me with total dissolution, it is with intense satisfaction I find myself once more among you in the vigor of health. (*Cheers.*) I should indeed be insensible to kindness were I to forget the anxious inquiries that have been made as to the state of my health by those who have held me in esteem, and sometimes in a steam. (*A laugh, in which all but the Melon joined.*) I cannot boast of a long line of ancestors. I did not, like some of you, come in with the Conqueror; but I came in the train of civilization, amidst the memorable luggage of Sir Walter Raleigh, in company with my right honorable friend, the Tobacco, who is not now present, but who often helps the philosopher to take a bird's-eye view of some of the finest objects for reflection. (*Immense cheering, and a nod of assent from the Turnip Top.*) Though I may be an American I may justly say that I have taken root in the soil, and, though I may not have the grace of the Cucumber, who seems to have come here in no enviable frame (*loud cheering,*) I believe I have done as much good as any living vegetable; for, though almost always at the rich man's table, I am seldom absent from the poor man's humble board. (*Tremendous applause.*) But," continued the Potato, "let me not get flowery, or mealy-mouthed, for there is something objectionable in such extreme. I have undergone many vicissitudes in the course off my existence. I have been served up, ay, and served out (*a smile*) in all sorts of ways. I have been roasted by some: I have been basted by others; and I once had my jacket rudely torn of my back my many who knew not the treatment I deserved. But this meeting, my friends, repays me for all. Excuse me if my eyes are watery. (*Sensation.*)—I am not very thin-skinned: but I feel deeply penetrated by your kindness this day."

The Potato resumed his seat amid the most tumultuous cheering, which lasted for a considerable time. [London Times.

PROGRESSIVE POPULATION.

The territory of the United States is nearly as large as that of all Europe; its population, including that of the Aborigines and immigrants, may exceed 23,000,000, which is not a tenth part of that of Europe. In August, 1790, the United States contained nearly four millions of people, inclusive of about 700,000 slaves. In 1800 there were 5,305,925 inhabitants; 7,239,814 in 1810; 9,654,596 in 1820; 12,866,020 in 1830; and 17,063,355 in June, 1840, of whom 14,189,705 were whites. Since the era of 1812 the area of the United States has more than doubled. During 25 years, to 1848, 1,588,872 persons have migrated from Great Britain and Ireland to North America, chiefly to the United States. In the year 1848 there arrived at the port of New York, 189,176 immigrants, of whom 98,061 were from Ireland, 51,978 from Germany, and 6415 from Scotland. The whole number of persons, not natives, who are now in the United States, is believed to be nearly four millions, or between a fourth and a fifth of the whole population.

In the year ending September 30, 1848, 229,483 passengers arrived in the United States, besides those via Quebec; 136,126 were males and 72,883 females. Of these only 19,299 landed at New Orleans. In 1847 and '48, 507,359 persons left the United Kingdom; in 1848 only 129,851.

Some think that the accession of population to the United States by immigration will soon reach 500,000 a year. Were our country filled up like Germany, 172 persons to the square mile, the population would be 500,000,000. Europe contained 183,000,000 inhabitants in 1847; in 1848 they had increased to 262 300,000 in the same area. Excess of population, enormous taxation, and the scarcity of subsistence, has driven millions to America within the last twenty years. At a former period, religious persecution banished thousands from otherwise happy homes.

In a few months we will have the decennial census of the United States for 1850, and we have seen a calculation making the population represented 21,027,527, and giving the Eastern States 25, the Middle, including Delaware, 58, Western, free, 50, Southern, or slave, 78, Representatives in Congress, at one member for 100,000 persons, 211, which is too small a number for the transaction of business, and one representative to 100,000 constituents by far too few.

Eighteen hundred and fifty-one will bring us a decennial return from the United Kingdom, which in 1841, contained 26,835,103 inhabitants, and may give a return of nearly 30,000,000 persons notwithstanding an emigration of more than a million in ten years.

THE JESTER.

KEEN. During the late canvass in Michigan, a surgeon dentist was making an excellent speech in one of the interior towns. A low fellow belonging to the other party interrupted him with the question, "what do you ask to pull a tooth, Doctor?" "I will pull all your teeth for a shilling and your nose gratis," replied the speaker.

INTO HIM. A conceited colonel of the cavalry lately complained that from the ignorance of his officers, he was obliged to do the whole duty of the regiment. "I am," said he, "my own captain, my own cornet." "And your own *trumpeter!*" said a witty lady.

Brown, they say that your husband follows very crooked ways." "Well, Mrs. Smith, that is not strange, for when he was a boy he got so much in the habit of chasing snakes, that he never could get over it."

Oats are reported "a cent a-piece" in California. A great many young men are busily engaged there sowing wild ones.

A down East paper hopes that all young ladies will take for a pattern the *inimitable* wife of Mr. B——in that section.

A FIRST OF JANUARY HINT. The following has been used down east as a pleasant substitute for a printer's dun. It is set to the music of the jingling of dollars:

"We'll gaily chase all care away,
And banish every sorrow.
Subscribers pay your debts to-day,
And we'll pay ours tomorrow."